

U.N. 'copter' missing in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — A United Nations helicopter disappeared in South Lebanon on Wednesday amid reports it made a forced landing east of the port city of Sidon. A spokesman said its three-man crew and three passengers were missing. U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said contact with the craft was lost at 3:30 p.m., and it appeared the helicopter made a forced landing because of stormy weather conditions east of the port city of Sidon. There were also unconfirmed reports that gunfire was directed at the helicopter, which was flown by members of the Italian contingent of the nine-nation U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said Goksel. Speaking by telephone from UNIFIL's headquarters in South Lebanon's border town of Naqoura, Goksel said the plane was on a regular flight from Beirut to Naqoura when it ran into trouble.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

E. Germany confirms swap deal

BERLIN (AP) — East Germany on Wednesday reconfirmed that an East-West prisoner exchange is in the making, but a U.S. diplomat said "we were told to keep our mouths shut" about the pending swap. The East German Foreign Ministry said the exchange will take place next week, but refused to disclose the exact time and place of the swap. The swap reportedly has been arranged for next Tuesday on a Berlin bridge. Wednesday's statement, the second from East Germany in as many days, caught U.S. officials in West Berlin by surprise. Everybody's talking except us, "Ed Harper, spokesman for the U.S. diplomatic mission in Berlin, told the Associated Press. "We were told the original plan, but we were told to keep our mouths shut." The confirmation of the exchange came in a statement read to the Associated Press by an East Berlin Foreign Ministry official.

Volume 11 Number 3089

AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6-7, 1986, JUMADA AWWAL 26-27, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Rifai chairs civil service talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Wednesday chaired the second meeting of the Royal Commission for civil service reforms. Progress made by the commission, the new civil service code and a working paper prepared by the commission were discussed during the meeting. The meeting, which lasted for three hours, discussed avenues of civil service and basic factors for its development.

Police find 'link' in Paris bombings

PARIS (R) — Police investigating the latest bomb attacks in the French capital believe there is a link with the pre-Christmas bombings of two large department stores, the usually well-informed daily le Monde said Wednesday. Two bombs exploded in 24 hours on Monday and Tuesday, one in a crowded shopping arcade in the Avenue des Champs Elysees and the other in a bookshop in the Latin quarter. Twelve people were injured and police defused another bomb one and a half hours before it was due to explode on the top floor of the Eiffel Tower on Monday night. Le Monde said investigators believed all attacks originated in the Middle East.

Lusaka meeting adds to pressure on S. Africa

LUSAKA (R) — The European Community (EC) and six black-ruled southern African countries have joined forces to increase pressure on South Africa to scrap its apartheid system of racial segregation. After a two-day meeting, which British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said was a signal to Pretoria, the two sides announced they agreed that South Africa must move swiftly to carry out fundamental reforms or face worsening violence. Mr. Howe told journalists: "From the rich diversity of 18 nations, we have found unity around the following propositions: that apartheid must go, that it must go soon, and that it must go in reality, not just in name."

Ridgway in Athens

ATHENS (R) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Rosamund Ridgway arrived in Athens on Wednesday for two days of talks with Greek leaders on Greek-U.S. relations, bedeviled in recent years by differences over Greece's role in NATO.

U.N. team arrives in post-coup Lesotho

MASERU (R) — A two-man United Nations mission to monitor political developments in Lesotho, where the army toppled the civilian government of Chief Leaboa Jonathan last month, has arrived in Maseru, diplomats said Wednesday. The team is headed by Run Wrangdahl of Sweden assisted by Ugandan political scientist James Ngobi. They were not immediately available for comment.

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Syria vows to punish Israel for air piracy

World condemns Israeli hijacking but U.S. appears to be offering justification

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

SYRIA ON Wednesday threatened retaliation for Israel's hijacking of a Libyan plane on Tuesday and said Israeli air piracy could trigger a blow-up in the Middle East.

Most world nations condemned the Israeli action but the U.S. appeared to contend that the Jewish state's hijacking of the plane could be justified. The Arab press severely condemned Israel for the hijacking, in which Israeli warplanes forced the Libyan executive plane, which was on a flight from Tripoli to Damascus, to land at an Israeli base and detained the nine passengers and three crew for over five hours before allowing it to continue its flight. Israel, which said the plane was suspected of carrying "people involved in planning attacks against Israel," admitted that it failed to achieve its objective, but said it would continue such action despite the failure.

Damascus Radio said Israel could not escape punishment and accused the United States of fueling tension. The Syrian foreign minister, Farouq Al Shara'a, sent urgent messages to the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and various other international organizations, informing them of the details of the Israeli seizure of the plane and Syria lodged a strong protest

with the U.N. Security Council and urged it "take effective measures to put an end to air piracy and terrorism exercised by Israel."

The Israeli delegate to the U.N., Benjamin Netanyahu, said his country suspected "terrorists" were aboard the seized plane and that it was within its rights to have forced down and searched the plane.

Damascus Radio warned Israel on Wednesday: "To those who think they can play with international law and freedom of air navigation, if they think they can escape punishment, they must be living in an illusion."

The radio said a possible "blow-up in the region" could result from the incident. It accused Washington of escalating tension by massing warships off the coast of Libya, making threats against Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. Israel came under fierce condemnation by all Arab states and most world nations, though some of the latter were guarded in the language of the condemnation. Damascus-based Palestinian groups vowed on Wednesday to retaliate against Israel for the hijacking and appealed to Arab, Islamic and non-aligned countries to act against Israel's air piracy.

(Continued on page 2)

Iraqi leader ready to improve relations with Syria and Libya

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was quoted on Wednesday as saying that his country was ready for reconciliation with Syria and Libya on condition they cease supporting Iran in its war with Iraq.

"If Syria takes one step toward us we will do the same and when it is ready to reestablish normal relations with us, we will then be ready," President Hussein told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas in an interview. The Iraqi president warned that a normalization of relations "would be much harder (if they waited) after the (Iran-Iraq) war is ended."

"The Iraqi people's readiness to normalize ties with Syria and Libya is right now stronger than it would be if they wait for the war to end, because the Iraqis would then remember their (pro-Iranian) stance against Iraq," President Hussein said.

2 Soviets reportedly asked to leave Italy

ROME (R) — Italy has ordered a first secretary at the Soviet embassy and the manager of the Soviet airline Aeroflot to leave the country, official sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the two men had been declared *persona non grata* for activities incompatible with their status in Italy. The sources said this expression normally referred to espionage.

Officials at the Italian Foreign Ministry refused to confirm or deny the report.

The sources said the first secretary at the embassy, named as Viktor Kopytine, left Italy on Wednesday. They said both men had been given only a few days to leave.

The Aeroflot office said its manager, Andrei Sheluchin, would leave as normal at the end of his posting in a few days' time. A spokeswoman denied that he had been expelled and said his departure had been arranged some time ago.

He said he was ready to forego the "fact that Libyan-supplied missiles and military equipment were used by Iran to attack Baghdad and that Libya had acted as a go-between to avail Iran of weapons."

He ruled out the eventuality of war between Syria and Israel, but he stressed that "Iraq would not hesitate to side with Syria in the event of war" with the Jewish state.

"I do not subscribe to the idea that Syria would initiate a limited or unlimited war with Israel," he said. "But I believe that skirmishes could occur with a view to attracting (world) attention away from attempts by Western powers to arrange a settlement (to the Mideast conflict) without Soviet participation."

President Hussein said the current bids to solve the Middle East crisis "are mere political manoeuvring devoid of any real intention to score a genuine and equitable solution for the homeless (Palestinian) people... these are only attempts to defuse the Soviet impact in the (Mideast) region."

He said "only pan-Arab solidarity is capable of effecting a serious solution (with Israel) in the foreseeable future."

He cautioned the Arabs against "operating under the impression that the Soviet Union can be alienated in any effort to solve the (Arab-Israeli) conflict."

Allying to his visit to Moscow last December, President Hussein said he found Iraq and Soviet Union were "in complete accord on all questions we discussed... largely on account of our arms deals and mutual political understanding."

Hardliners rally behind Gemayel

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival militias traded grenade-throwing assaults in heavy winter rainstorms across Beirut's dividing green line on Wednesday. Police said one soldier was killed and three civilians were wounded. The fighting flared as hardline Christians rallied behind President Amin Gemayel to thwart a drive by an alliance of Syrian-backed militias to oust the 44-year-old head of state.

His administration, meanwhile, instructed Lebanon's U.N. mission to request the dispatch of a U.N. fact-finding team to investigate reports that Israel was annexing a 30-square-kilometre chunk of South Lebanon, a government statement said.

The green line fighting erupted before dawn, tapered off at daybreak and picked up anew at mid-morning at the old downtown commercial district straddling Beirut's bomb-ravaged port, police said.

Rival militia gunners unleashed sporadic barrages of mortar and 106-mm fire to cover the hit-and-run forays in the rain-soaked district. But police said neither side made any territorial gains.

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KING MEETS ARAFAT: His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday receives Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and General Intelligence Director-General Tarq Alseddin (Petra photo)

Libya reports 'suspicious' U.S. moves

TRIPOLI (R) — Tripoli Radio on Wednesday reported "suspicious American movements" in the Mediterranean and said the government had information suggesting U.S. warships were heading towards Libya.

The radio said two aircraft carriers with the U.S. Sixth Fleet, Coral Sea and Saratoga, both of which took part in manoeuvres last week off the Libyan coast, were already "in the middle of the Mediterranean."

U.S. officials said on Monday the carriers might be sent back to the area next week to resume a war of nerves with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

U.S. Defence Department spokesman Robert Simms said Tuesday night all but two of the 28 U.S. warships in the Mediterranean, including the carriers, were in port in Italy.

The exercises were conducted just north of the Gulf of Sirte, claimed by Libya as within its territorial limits, but which Washington contends lies in international waters.

Col. Qadhafi drew a national "line of death" across the mouth of the gulf, 175 kilometres north of the Libyan shore, threatening to attack any ships or planes crossing it.

Call for conference

In another development, Arab diplomats said in Casablanca that Libya wants to hold an Arab conference on international terrorism to discuss "U.S. and Israeli armed actions against Arab states."

Libyan Justice Minister Muftah Qadafi made the proposal at the opening session of Tuesday of an annual meeting of Arab interior ministers in Casablanca, they said.

The proposal was made before Israel hijacked a Libyan civilian aircraft off Cyprus on Tuesday. The seizure has been denounced in Arab capitals as air piracy and state terrorism.

Three-day Casablanca meeting is attended by ministers from the 21 Arab League members, except South Yemen which is not represented and Algeria which has sent lower-ranking officials.

Addressing the Casablanca conference, Jordanian Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed condemned the arbitrary Israeli measures in the occupied Arab territories and the occupation authorities' violations of the sanctity of holy places and their blind eye towards extremist terrorist Zionist elements to abolish Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

"The existence of Israel is a basic source of disturbing the security and stability of the region," Mr. Kayed said. He described Syrian-Jordanian relations as excellent and praised the role played by Saudi Arabia in achieving Arab solidarity.

Mr. Kayed also hailed Iraq and its army which is repelling the Iranian aggression. He stressed Jordan's firm stand towards the leadership, government and people of Iraq.

Israel expels 3 more Palestinians

Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities on Wednesday expelled three more Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It brought to 12 the number expelled to the East Bank since the army began an "iron-fist" campaign last July.

The three, who have not stood trial, were accused of being activists in George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). They were identified as Jala Azizi and Hasan Al Amoudi from the Gaza refugee camp of Bureij and Mahmud Fanoun from a village near Bethlehem.

Israeli forces sealed parts of the home of two West Bank Palestinians suspected of throwing hand grenades at Israeli vehicles, the Israeli military said.

The army also blocked with concrete an alleyway in the city of Nabulus which it said had been used as a getaway passage for Arabs attacking Israelis.

Israel Radio said on Wednesday two of the expelled men from the Gaza Strip were among 1,150 prisoners freed last May in return for the release of three Israeli soldiers held by a Palestinian group.

The three were expelled after refusing to appeal to the Israeli supreme court against the expulsion orders, saying they did not recognise Israeli law.

The expulsions are in contravention to an agreement reached between Israel and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) at the time of the May exchange of three Israeli soldiers for Palestinian prisoners. Israel undertook not to deport any of the released prisoners.

There are a number of such "cases" pending in Israeli courts over Palestinians released in the May exchange but most of the "defendants" say they do not expect justice in the court and refuse to file appeals against expulsion orders.

Cairo talks open on Taba formula

CAIRO (AP) — Israeli and Egyptian negotiators opened talks on Wednesday on an Israeli proposal to resolve a border dispute with Egypt and simultaneously improve bilateral relations.

A 14-point Israeli cabinet decision on Jan. 13 embodying the proposal in what it termed a "basket deal" received mixed reaction in Cairo.

Egypt welcomed Israel's agreement to settle a dispute over the border area of Taba by binding international arbitration. But President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said Egypt has "reservations" about certain points in the Israeli formula, which they did not specify.

Nabil Al Arabi, Egypt's chief delegate to the talks beginning on Wednesday, said Egypt rejects an Israeli suggestion that arbitrators try non-binding conciliation for about eight months before trying to impose a solution of their own.

Reagan hopeful over future, says U.S. is growing stronger every day

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has given Americans an upbeat report about the nation's strength, appealed for support of rebels fighting leftist governments around the world, and announced three new initiatives on domestic and international issues.

"I am pleased to report the state of our union is stronger than a year ago, and growing stronger each day," Mr. Reagan said to a cheering audience in his annual state of the union message to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday.

Pointing to low inflation and unemployment and strong economic growth since he took office in 1981, Mr. Reagan declared: "Tonight, we look out on a rising America — firm of heart, united in spirit, powerful in pride and patriotism — America is on the move."

His 30-minute speech, interrupted 27 times by applause, was vintage Reagan — full of optimism and advice to Americans to reach for the stars.

Mr. Reagan gave notice that he would urge Congress again to resume the military aid to Nicaraguan rebels it cut off last year and said the United States would give moral and unspecified material assistance to Afghans opposing Soviet intervention in their country, Kampuchean resisting Vietnam's occupying forces, and guerrillas fighting Angola's government.

The three new initiatives in his address were: — instructing Treasury Secretary James Baker to determine if an international conference should be convened to discuss the role and relationship of world currencies

— instructing the Department of Health and Human Services to come up with plans for insurance to help Americans faced with catastrophic illness and

— directing his domestic policy council to make recommendations for reorganising the welfare system for poor Americans.

In his address, Mr. Reagan said the nation remained fully committed to space shuttle flights despite the tragedy that overtook the space shuttle Challenger a week ago.

Furthermore, he said, the nation remained committed to building a space station and to going forward with research on an orbiting express, super high speed passenger aircraft.

Prince Hassan to open conference on food security

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day conference on "Food Security in Third World Countries" will open here on Saturday morning under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The two-day conference is organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and is expected to be attended by Jordanian, Arab and foreign economic experts on Third World affairs.

In London, Prince Hassan on Wednesday continued a dialogue with several managers of banks and economic institutions in Britain.

The dialogue centred on scopes of cooperation in the transfer of British technology and science to Jordan with special attention to advanced British industry.

Prince Hassan opened the dialogue on Tuesday. It centred on trade, scientific research and industrial development.

The six-hour dialogue was attended by a Jordanian delegation accompanying Prince Hassan on his current visit to Britain.

On Tuesday, Prince Hassan met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and discussed Middle East developments. Minister of Industry and Trade Rajal Maushar and Jordan's Ambassador to Britain Nabih Al Nimer attended the meeting.

Prince Hassan went to the United Kingdom from Geneva where he held talks with officials of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's arbitrary practices against Arab labourers under its rule.

Prince Hassan urged the ILO to implement its 1980 resolution which provided for dispatching a mission to the occupied Arab territories to look into the conditions of Arab labourers.

The informal meeting grouped Mr. Arabi and the two senior members of the Israeli team, Avraham Tamir, director-general of Prime Minister Shimon Peres' office, and David Kimche, director-general of the Foreign Ministry.

The United States, which mediated the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian treaty and has sat in on the border dispute talks since they began in 1982, was represented by Cairo embassy counsellor George Sherman and Tel Aviv embassy official Dan Kurtzer.

An official of the Israeli embassy in Cairo, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP the Israeli delegation has brought a detailed proposal on an arbitration agreement.

Peres said Tuesday on Israel Radio that the cabinet had approved wording of the question that Israel wants the international arbitrator to consider.

Surprise... at

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Arab press urges retaliation for Israeli hijack of Libyan plane

BAHRAIN (R) — Syria's press led a chorus of outrage from Middle East commentators Wednesday over Israel's hijacking of a Libyan airliner and one paper called for a tit-for-tat Arab response.

The official media in Damascus urged international punishment of Israel and accused Washington of complicity in the incident.

A senior Syrian official was on the Libyan executive jet, intercepted on a flight from Tripoli to Damascus. State-run Damascus Radio pledged to avenge the action, declaring: "This Zionist crime will not go unpunished."

The government daily Tishrin said: "U.N. condemnation is not enough. This is a dangerous thing because it indicates an escalation of the Zionist terrorist policy ... threatening peace in the entire region."

Qatar's English-language Gulf

Times said: "The Arabs should not blame the Americans or mount verbal attacks against the Israelis ... Force requires a response of force, like with like, that is the only language they will understand."

The Cypriot Communist daily, Haravghi, described the interception as "an impudent gangster-like action," while the Socialist Ta Nea referred to the incident as "Israeli terrorism."

In Lebanon, the Ash-Sharq said: "Israel behaves on the ground and in the air as if it enjoys international immunity. The free world must adopt a different stand from the one it has taken so far."

And Bahrain's Akhbar Al-Khaleej said: "This is a humiliation for the Arabs which cannot be swallowed by speeches and big words."

Egyptian newspapers, whose government is politically at odds with both Libya and Syria, fronted the incident. The semi-official Al-Ahram gave a full account under the headline "in an air piracy operation, Israeli jets intercept a Libyan aircraft."

Several Arab commentators directed their anger at the United States.

"Who is the terrorist, and who is the victim," asked Beirut's As-Safir. "Nobody in the United States or Israel take the trouble to answer the question."

"The expression 'terrorism against terrorism' is what everybody talks about in Tel Aviv and Washington being a policy of which

(U.S. President) Reagan (Israeli Prime Minister Shimon) Peres and the rest of the clique are proud of," it said.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Al-Ithrahad said: "When the Arabs are able to force the United States to pay the price of its encouragement of Israeli terrorism, then we will have begun a new stage in our struggle to regain our occupied lands."

Another UAE daily, Al-Khaleej, commented: "The answer lies in stopping our pleas to the enemy to permit the participation of Palestinian representatives in a peace conference and close the door to Washington's peace envoys."

"It also starts by ... recognising America as an equal enemy to the Arabs as Israel," it added (Jordanian press comments, see page 4).

Passenger of hijacked airplane describes ordeal at Israeli hands

DAMASCUS (R) — A Lebanese passenger aboard the Libyan airliner hijacked by Israel said Wednesday the plane's passengers were threatened, cursed and interrogated for three hours before they were allowed to fly on to Damascus.

Omar Harb, secretary-general of the Lebanese Arab Socialist Federation, said the two Israeli jets which hijacked the Libyan executive jet over the Mediterranean "flew so close to our plane that they nearly touched our wings."

After the plane was forced to land at a military airstrip in northern Israel, about 150 Israeli commandos surrounded it and aimed assault rifles at the passengers as they disembarked one at a time, Mr. Harb said.

"We were subjected to very thorough searches, repeatedly," Mr. Harb told reporters shortly after his arrival here late Tuesday.

"We were told to sit on the ground with our hands over our heads. After about an hour and a half, we were taken blindfolded to a building near the airport where we were isolated in separate rooms," he said.

The Israelis, speaking in Arabic, asked him the purpose of his visit to Libya, "then they began

the interrogation with threats and curses," Mr. Harb said.

An Israeli military communiqué said the plane was "suspected of carrying people involved in planning attacks against Israel."

Palestinian officials in Damascus and Tripoli said the Israelis had apparently hoped to capture George Habash, leader of the Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Ahmad Ibrahimi, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

The two had travelled to Tripoli last week with Mr. Ahmad to attend meetings with other Palestinian, Syrian and Libyan leaders, and were expected to return with the delegation.

When the Israelis realised none of the men they sought was on the plane, "it was clear from the looks on their faces that they were completely disappointed because they could not achieve their hopes," Mr. Harb said.

Before boarding the plane, the passengers requested that representatives of the International Red Cross inspect the plane "because we suspected the Israelis had planted explosives on board," Mr. Harb said.

The Israelis, however, declined the request.

Egypt sentences Israeli, Pakistani to death for drug smuggling

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian-born Israeli and a Pakistani were sentenced to death by an Egyptian court on Wednesday for smuggling heroin and opium into the country.

The government, facing a growing drug menace, has urged courts to pass death sentences for narcotics smuggling and trafficking. The first sentence, on a Sri Lankan, was passed in December.

Youssef Amin Tahar, an Egyptian-born Israeli said by lawyers he was in his early 40s, told the court he had bought heroin in

Bombay to sell in Israel.

He was arrested at Cairo airport on Aug. 18, when customs officers found more than a kilo of heroin hidden in a toothpaste tube, biscuit boxes and cigarette packets.

Tahar was handcuffed in court to Pakistani Mohammad Aslam, who was also sentenced to hang for opium smuggling. A prosecution witness, Cairo airport customs officer Isam Anwar Attia, said Aslam arrived from Pakistan on Aug. 2 with two bags of opium in a suitcase. Aslam identified the suitcase as his in court.

Israeli parliament defeats bill to amend religious law

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli parliament Wednesday rejected an attempt by religious political parties to redefine who is a Jew after Prime Minister Shimon Peres warned the move could split the Jewish people around the world.

The Knesset voted 61 to 47 against an amendment to the law of return, which automatically grants citizenship to Jews emigrating to Israel. The bill sought to redefine Jewish identity to exclude gentiles converted to Judaism by non-Orthodox rabbis.

The proposal, last voted on a year ago, sparked a protest among American Jews, most of whom belong to the reform and con-

servative movements that differ from the orthodox in adherence to ritual law.

"Is this a time for disunity or the unity of our people?" Peres asked in an address to parliament. "Should we cause a split or should we seek a common denominator and close ranks?"

Israel's four religious parties want to disqualify conversions to Judaism by non-Orthodox rabbis. American reform and conservative rabbis have protested, saying the amendment would mean a symbolic rejection of hundreds of thousands of American Jews who are among Israel's best fundraisers.

Jane's: Soviets may have bombed Aden airport

LONDON (Agencies) — A British magazine said Wednesday that Soviet pilots might have bombed Aden's airport in support of hardline Marxist rebels who toppled South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammed in fierce battles last month.

Jane's Defence Weekly, quoting unidentified Middle Eastern sources, said that "up to 100 Soviet advisers may have been casualties in the fighting" which ended the rule of Mr. Mohammed.

The sources told Jane's that Moscow's military support for the rebels pre-dated the collapse of Soviet-sponsored mediation between opposing Marxist factions.

"Soviet support is believed to have turned the scales in the savage fighting in South Yemen," Jane's said.

The Soviet Union, which evacuated its citizens from South Yemen during the brief civil war, had called for a peaceful resolution of ideological differences which triggered off the fighting.

Meanwhile the new leadership in South Yemen on Tuesday sent a delegation to Kuwait, the second country on the Arabian peninsula after Oman to which it has turned for support.

The delegation led by Yassine Saeed No'man, member of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) and minister of fish resources, was received at the airport by the Kuwaiti Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Al Houti and the Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen.

Mr. No'man told reporters he was carrying a message from the interim President Heider Al Attas to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

He said the message dealt with bilateral relations and the recent bloody fighting between rival Marxist factions of the YSP which led to the replacement of Mr. Mohammed as president of South Yemen.

"The visit is also aimed at developing the brotherly relations between the two countries in the coming stage," Mr. No'man said. "The recent events will not lead to a change in policy toward our Arab brothers but we will continue to seek development of fraternal relations with Arab states."

Syria vows to punish Israel for piracy

(Continued from page 1)

Khaled Abdul Majeed, spokesman for the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) which groups PLO factions opposed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said: "This Israeli act will result in an atmosphere of revolutionary violence to be carried out by the revolutionary forces in retaliation."

The PNSF groups all leaders of the PLO factions which attended the Tripoli conference on Tuesday.

His Majesty King Hussein was the first Arab leader to telephone Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Tuesday to condemn the Israeli action and voice total support for Syria's stand towards the issue.

King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia also voiced denunciation of Israel and pledged Saudi support for Syria in a telephone contact with President Assad.

King Fahd described the Israeli action as a flagrant violation of international norms and voiced Saudi support for Syria and other Arab states in the face of such actions, the Saudi Press Agency said.

Other Arab Gulf states also issued similar statements. Kuwait described the Israeli seizure as another Israeli aggression against the Arab Nation. Qatar urged the U.N. Security Council to seek an end to such terrorist acts as the Israeli hijacking.

Iraq called for a collective Arab response to the Israeli air piracy. A statement by Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council described the Israeli action as "cowardly and criminal" and said it would not be the last such incident unless there were some "collective Arab action."

The statement called on Arab states to organise ... before it is too late and take joint action against such violations aimed to undermine Arab pride.

Iraq's swift reaction came despite the fact that both Libya and Syria have supported Iran in its Gulf war with Iraq.

Algeria, Tunis and Morocco severely denounced the Israeli action and called for joint Arab action to confront it.

In Beirut, Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karani said the Israeli hijacking violated international law. The Jewish state "creates a worldwide uproar over terrorism, but ... seems to think it can replace international law with the law of the jungle," Mr. Karani told Reuters.

In Tunis, a General League Secretary-General Chadi Kibbi condemned the Israeli action as an act of air piracy and regretted that "this form of terrorism" could "receive the admiration and encouragement of certain parties."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid issued a statement in Cairo on Tuesday denouncing the Israeli action. The Egyptian denunciation came on the eve of resumption of talks with Israel on Taba, which Israel occupies but belongs to Egypt.

In Amman, Salah Khalaf, a close aide to Mr. Arafat and co-founder of Fatah, said the Arab World should go beyond diplomatic efforts to confront the Israeli air piracy.

"We support any measures that Syria and the Arab countries demand at the Security Council, or any other independent Arab measures to stop such Israeli persistence in striking at Arab civil aviation," Mr. Khalaf was quoted as saying by AP.

"I don't believe that putting things before the Security Council alone should be the only Arab response," said Mr. Khalaf. "There should be measures that are stronger to confront such an act." He did not specify what measures he had in mind, AP said.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe denounced the Israeli seizure of the "Libyan plane and said it set 'a dangerous precedent' and breached international law. Mr. Howe, while welcoming the release of the passengers and the plane, said in a statement: "We condemn this (forced) diversion ... this aircraft was on a legitimate journey. There is no evidence that there were any terrorists aboard, or of any threat to Israel's security."

Mr. Howe said "the interception was without justification. It sets a dangerous precedent which appears to have been in contravention of international law."

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told a cabinet meeting on Wednesday of his concern over the effects of the Israeli action. Mr. Dumas said the Israeli action was "likely to increase the tensions in that part of the world, which did not need that."

In Madrid, a spokesman for the Spanish Foreign Ministry said Spain "rejected the use of coercion against civilian aircraft contrary to freedom and security of navigation."

Belgium and Turkey also issued government statements criticising the Israeli government for the hijacking.

In New Delhi, the Indian government described the Israeli action as a "complete violation" of international law. The United News of India news agency quoted Foreign Secretary Ramesh Bhandari as saying his country was shocked that states would resort to the tactics of terrorism.

India is the current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement and Syria had sent an urgent message to the Indian government informing it of the Israeli action.

In Tripoli, the Libyan Foreign Ministry summoned foreign ambassadors on Wednesday to protest against the Israeli action, which it described as state terrorism.

The Libyan protest statement accused the U.S. of collusion with Israel, saying the seizure of the plane "confirms that America is not interested in international or world peace."

It called on the world community to take action against "this action of piracy in order to ensure safety of air travel."

In Washington, the United States on Tuesday denied Libyan charges that it had helped Israel to intercept the jet.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said Washington, which itself last year intercepted an Egyptian airliner carrying the accused hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro, "as a matter of general principle" opposes interception of aircraft in peacetime.

But such interceptions could sometimes be justified to forestall "terrorist" attacks, he said. "Such interceptions are inherently very risky and, as such, can be justified only in the most exceptional cases," Kalb said. But, he added, interceptions are justifiable "in very narrow counter-terrorism cases."

Kalb said Israel had acted on its own based on its own information. He said of U.S. policy: "Any counter-terrorist action we undertake must help prevent further terrorist attacks and minimise the risk to innocent civilians. We believe that a state should intercept civilian aircraft only on the basis of the strongest and clearest evidence that terrorists are on board."

Asked whether Israel had been justified in its action, Kalb said: "Our policy is clear. The government of Israel made its own decision on the basis of its own evidence. We are relieved that the aircraft was released with no loss of life or injury."

Libya accused the United States of being Israel's "partner in crime" in forcing down the plane, but the U.S. Defence Department denied any involvement in the interception.

"There was no U.S. military involvement at all," spokesman Robert Sims told Reuters. "He denied a report by the Libyan news agency JANA that U.S. warships in the Mediterranean had used electronic surveillance methods to guide the Israelis to their target."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

MAIN CHANNEL
16:00 Koran
16:30 Children's Programmes
17:00 Webster
18:00 Paul Daniel Show
19:00 Local Content programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 World's Events
20:45 Arabic Series
21:30 Tomorrow's programmes and Varieties
22:00 Arabic Play
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Play Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 Sacha Guitry
19:00 News in French
19:15 Bergeat et fils
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Emergency Room
21:00 Magazine Zenn One
21:10 Return to Eden
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: Where the Bullets Fly

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.0 KHz SW
Tel: 774111-19

7:00 Light Music
7:30 Newsweek
8:00 Morning Show
8:30 News Summary
9:00 Morning Show
9:30 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session
11:00 News Summary
11:30 Pop Session
12:00 News Bulletin
12:30 News Summary
13:00 News Bulletin
13:30 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 News Summary
15:00 Concert Hour
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Bulletin
16:30 News Summary
17:00 25 Years of Rock
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Special Feature
18:50 From the Holy Quran

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION
MAIN CHANNEL
18:00 Koran
18:30 Religious Programmes
19:00 Fidelity Prayers and Religious programme
19:30 Documentary
19:30 Sports
19:30 Robot
19:30 Viewers' Choice (Arabic)
20:00 Arabic Film
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 Tomorrow's Programmes
21:30 Cinema '86
23:00 News in Arabic

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.0 KHz, SW
7:00 Light Music
7:30 Newsweek
8:00 Morning Show
8:30 News Summary
9:00 Morning Show
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14:00 News Bulletin
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15:00 Concert Hour
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Bulletin
16:30 News Summary
17:00 25 Years of Rock
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Special Feature
18:50 From the Holy Quran

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
An exhibition of Jordanian environment art works by David Robert and John Lewis at the Housing Bank complex.
A display of the various works of the British Council in Jordan in the council's foyer during office hours (until Feb. 9).

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz
06:00 Newsweek
06:30 News Summary
07:00 World News
07:30 24 Hours: News Summary
08:00 News Summary
08:30 News Summary
09:00 News Summary
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AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL
The American Film Festival "Oscar winners through the decades: 1930's-1980's at 7:30 p.m. daily at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Feb. 7).
Tonight's film: "Being There".
Friday's film: "Coal Miner's Daughter".

LECTURE
A lecture by Father Michele Piccolini entitled "The Archaeological Research at Mount Nebo, Past and Present" at 6:00 p.m. Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

VIDEO
"Les quatre 40" at 4:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 644571
American Centre Library 641520

PRAYER TIMES
06:00 Sunrise
06:27 Sunrise
11:50 Dhuhr
14:51 Asr
17:14 Maghreb
18:36 Isha

18:05 Morning Show Cont.
18:10 News Summary
18:15 News Summary
18:20 News Summary
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24:00 News Summary

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
09:35 Kuwait (KU)
09:40 Moscow, Dubai (RU)
09:45 Abu Dhabi (AE)
09:50 Cairo (EG)
09:55 Jeddah (SA)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
10:10 Kuwait (KU)
10:15 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
10:20 Beirut, Damascus (RJ)
10:25 Baghdad (IA)
10:30 London, Baghdad (BA)
10:35 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (JA)
10:40 Cairo (EG)
10:45 London, Baghdad (BA)
10:50 Athens (GR)
10:55 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM)
11:00 Zurich, Lamezia (SS)
11:05 Cairo (MS)
11:10 Baghdad (IA)
11:15 London, Baghdad (BA)
11:20

DEPARTURES
06:00 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 Athens (GR)
07:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:00 Beirut (MEA)
08:30 Damascus, Athens (RJ)
09:00 Paris, London (BA)
09:30 Brussels, Frankfurt (LH)
09:45 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
10:00 Cairo (EG)
10:05 Kuwait (KU)
10:10 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
10:15 Baghdad (GP)
10:20 Baghdad (IA)
10:25 Kuwait (KU)
10:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:35 Baghdad (IA)
10:40 Jeddah (SA)
10:45 Cairo (EG)

WEATHER
Due to a depression centred over Syria, decrease in temperature, strong wind and thunder showers can be expected during the day. In Amman, the winds will be northerly and rough sea.

MONEY EXCHANGE
Wednesday rates
Local selling rates in JLD
Bahraini dirham 960 568
Dutch guilder 132.7 135.3
Egyptian pound 200 206
French franc 48.9 49.8
Iraqi dinar 344 352
Japanese yen (for 100) 187.8 191.4
Kuwaiti dinar 1267 1274
Lebanese lira 14 16
Omani rial 940 950
Qatari rial 99 101
Saudi rial 98 101
Swedish crown 47.8 48.6
Swiss franc 171.1 180.7
Syrian lira 23 25
UAE dirham 98 100
U.K. sterling pound 496.1 512.1
U.S. dollar 363.4 367.1
W. German mark 149.8 152.7

11:00 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:45 Look Ahead 11:45 Postcard News 12:00 News Summary; Sing. Gospel 12:15 Merchant Navy Programme 12:30 Business Matters 12:45 World News 12:50 News about Britain 13:15 The Morning News 13:20 A Letter from Northern Ireland 13:25 A Letter from Northern Ireland 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Jazz for the Aids 14:30 Sports Round-up 14:45 World News 14:50 News Summary 15:00 News Summary 15:10 News Summary 15:20 News Summary 15:30 News Summary 15:40 News Summary 15:50 News Summary 16:00 News Summary 16:10 News Summary 16:20 News Summary 16:30 News Summary 16:40 News Summary 16:50 News Summary 17:00 News Summary 17:10 News Summary 17:20 News Summary 17:30 News Summary 17:40 News Summary 17:50 News Summary 18:00 News Summary 18:10 News Summary 18:20 News Summary 18:30 News Summary 18:40 News Summary 18:50 News Summary 19:00 News Summary 19:10 News Summary 19:20 News Summary 19:30 News Summary 19:40 News Summary 19:50 News Summary 20:00 News Summary 20:10 News Summary 20:20 News Summary 20:30 News Summary 20:40 News Summary 20:50 News Summary 21:00 News Summary 21:10 News Summary 21:20 News Summary 21:30 News Summary 21:40 News Summary 21:50 News Summary 22:00 News Summary 22:10 News Summary 22:20 News Summary 22:30 News Summary 22:40 News Summary 22:50 News Summary 23:00 News Summary 23:10 News Summary 23:20 News Summary 23:30 News Summary 23:40 News Summary 23:50 News Summary 24:00 News Summary

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11:00 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:45 Look Ahead 11:45 Postcard News 12:00 News Summary; Sing. Gospel 12:15 Merchant Navy Programme 12:30 Business Matters 12:45 World News 12:50 News about Britain 13:15 The Morning News 13:20 A Letter from Northern Ireland 13:25 A Letter from Northern Ireland 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Jazz for the Aids 14:30 Sports Round-up 14:45 World News 14:50 News Summary 15:00 News Summary 15:10 News Summary 15:20 News Summary 15:30 News Summary 15:40 News Summary 15:50 News Summary 16:00 News Summary 16:10 News Summary 16:20 News Summary 16:30 News Summary 16:40 News Summary 16:50 News Summary 17:00 News Summary 17:10 News Summary 17:20 News Summary 17:30 News Summary 17:40 News Summary 17:50 News Summary 18:00 News Summary

NEWS IN BRIEF

Irbid trains recruits for People's Army

RAMTHA (Petra) — The first batch of People's Army recruits from Irbid Governorate will graduate here Thursday at a ceremony under the patronage of Irbid Governor Mohammad Al Al Amin. Graduates who have completed a training course in the use of light arms and first aid will attend the ceremony to be held at Ibn Hazin school for boys in Ramtha.

Ministry to issue Arabsat stamps

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications has decided to issue a special commemorative postage stamp to mark the first anniversary of the launching of the Arab satellite (Arabsat) on Feb. 8th. The new issue will be in denominations of 60 fils and 100 fils, the ministry said.

Alia, CAA staff plant trees at airport

AMMAN (Petra) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Wednesday celebrated Arbor Day at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). Alia Director General Mahmoud Jamal Balaz, airline staff and staff from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) planted about 2,000 saplings donated by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Team checks health standards in Ma'an

MA'AN (Petra) — The Public Safety Committee for Ma'an Governorate Wednesday made an inspection tour of restaurants, commercial areas and garages to ensure that owners are abiding by Health Ministry regulations. A committee spokesman said that the teams issued warnings to a number of businesses and ordered the closure of a restaurant for violations of health regulations.

Meeting to review ALO activities

AMMAN (Petra) — A labour committee set up by the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry will open a two-day meeting in Amman on Saturday to discuss an agenda for the 14th Arab labour conference due to be held in Amman in March. The committee will also discuss proposals for amending the constitution of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), its plans and programmes and will review previous ALO resolutions and recommendations. Delegates from Arab League states will take part in the meeting.

Institute concludes admin courses

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Institute of Management has ended three training programmes for employees in administration and accountancy departments. Nearly 40 employees from the private and public sector took part in the courses which were designed to improve their efficiency and develop their skills.

British civil engineers' president to inspect water projects in Jordan

AMMAN (LPS) — Water will be a main topic of discussion when the president of the British Institution of Civil Engineers visits Jordan and other Middle East countries. Mr. Donald Reeve, together with the secretary of the institution, Mr. John McKenzie, will visit Jordan from Feb. 7-11. During their Middle East tour also visits to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Egypt.

Mr. Reeve said that he was looking forward to seeing how Middle East countries had resolved their various water problems. "I hope that we will be able to help in any way we can," he added.

Mr. Reeve and Mr. McKenzie expect to meet ministers, and government officials of the countries they visit as well as water engineers, they will also make contact with associated institutions and associations. In Jordan they will inspect engineering works at Aqaba.

The Institution of Civil Engineering, set up in 1981, has 72,000 members worldwide, and tours are a very important part of the function of the institution.

ARA invites bids for Aqaba tourist village

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA — The two-year-old Aqaba Region Authority (ARA), responsible for the overall development of Jordan's Red Sea resort of Aqaba, has taken steps to implement a 20-year-old project to tap Aqaba's potential as a holiday resort centre.

During the past month, the ARA has published notices inviting qualified local and international property developers to bid for an all-inclusive contract to build a tourist village overlooking sandy beaches south of the city. Interested developers have been invited to contact the ARA project prospectus, and submit a "registration of interest" form by March 10.

The ARA will shortlist developers this spring, and award the tract towards end summer or early autumn, ARA officials told Jordan Times.

The project, to be called Qaboos Tourist Village, is expected to include 800-900 plots of single-story holiday homes, within an area of over 50 hectares. ARA officials estimate the cost of the project at between \$40-\$45 million. The homes will be aimed mainly at Jordanians, though this week's government decision allowing all Arab nationals to buy and lease real estate in Jordan without restrictions should make other Arab investors a major potential market for the project.

The selected developer will be responsible for all aspects of the project, including feasibility study, architectural designs, construction and project management, preparation and provision of services, provision of the necessary infrastructure, and marketing and managing the completed holiday village. In practice, the developer probably sub-contract elements of the work to more specialised firms, and the holiday village project is likely to be studied, designed, built, marketed and managed by a combination of Jordanian and international firms.



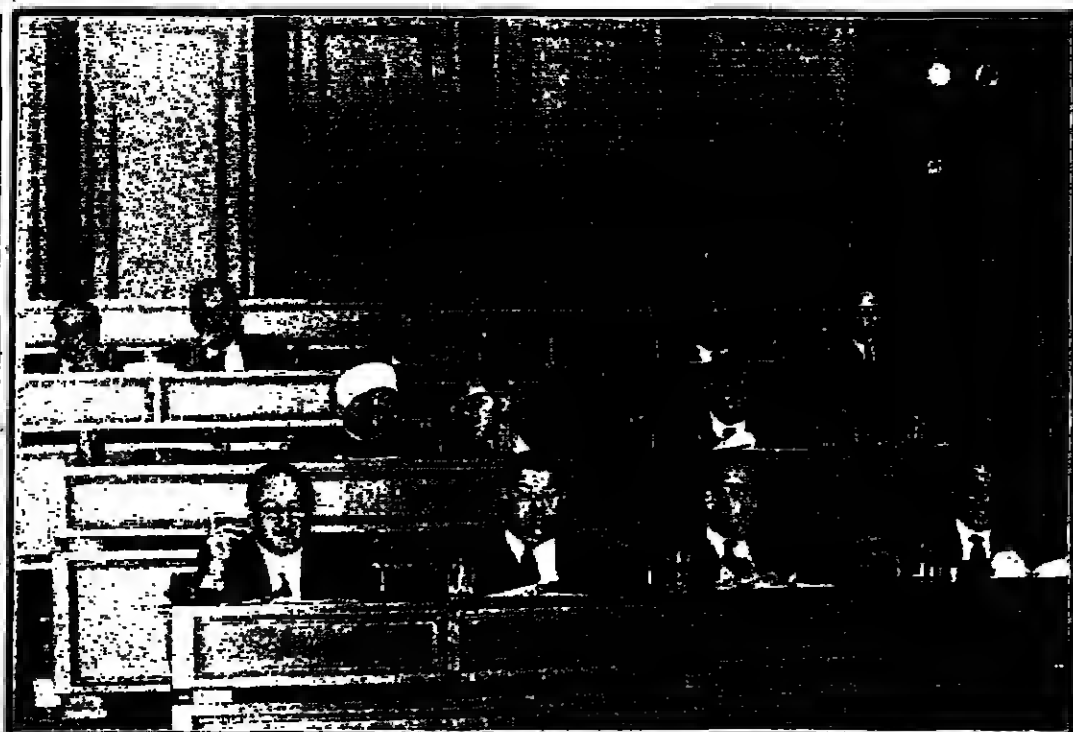
The Aqaba Region Authority plans to build holiday homes to tap Aqaba's potential as a resort centre (J.T. file photo)

Large potential market

The ARA's preliminary assumptions are that the holiday homes will be sold to the public at a price of around JD 10,000 (\$27,000). It estimates that at this price, the homes may draw a potential market of at least 20,000 households in Jordan, not to mention institutional buyers (such as companies that might want to maintain a Aqaba beachfront home for employees or guests), other Arab nationals (particularly residents of northern Saudi Arabia who could drive to Aqaba), and the estimated 300,000 Jordanians working abroad.

The holiday village, along Aqaba's eight-kilometre-long south coast tourist zone, will not compete with the established hotels along the north coast of the Gulf of Aqaba, ARA officials noted. Qaboos Tourist Village is aimed primarily at the domestic market, particularly well-off Jordanians who have tended recently to buy small holiday homes in Cyprus, Spain, Greece or other Mediterranean lands.

The south coast tourist zone is the last remaining continuous stretch of undeveloped beachfront in Aqaba, and has been earmarked for this purpose.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Majali, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Hazem Nusseibeh and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Judeh and other cabinet ministers at Wednesday's session of the Upper House of Parliament (Petra photo)

Rainy weather to continue; drivers warned about poor visibility

AMMAN (J.T.) — A depression accompanied by a cold front has affected Jordan and Department of Meteorology sources expect Thursday's weather to remain rainy, windy and cold with an expected drop in temperatures.

A report from the department issued on Wednesday said that the country has been affected by a depression which centred over Egypt and moved to the Kingdom and by a cold front which affected Jordan from the western borders.

The report added that there will be strong westerly winds and it cautioned drivers in the areas of Al Umri, Mudawarah, Azraq, Daa'aba and Qatraneh to drive carefully since poor visibility due

to dust is expected in eastern and southern areas.

The Public Security Department (PSD) has also called on all drivers in Jordan's desert areas to drive carefully and to switch on their headlights and hazard lights to avoid accidents. The report also said that if drivers cannot see the road ahead they should stop their cars on the right-hand side of the road and wait until the visibility is better.

Rainfall figures

The Meteorology Department has also announced the amount of rainfall throughout the Kingdom over the past 24 hours. Following

are the amounts in millimetres: Amman and the military airport 0.8, Amman Municipality 1.2, Jabal Al Hussein 1.4, Wadi Seer 2.2, University of Jordan 3.0, Sweileh 1.8, Queen Alia International Airport 1.1, Jordan Petroleum Refinery 1.6, Birien 1.0, Sukhneh 1.7, Wadi Duhlei 3.0, Madaba 1.0, Irbid 1.4, Al Hnsan 2.0, Kharija 2.3, Ramtha 2.5, Al Turrah 1.8, Al Zoumaibeh 1.6, Samar 2.0, Ras Munif 1.7, Ajloun 1.7, Al Kurah 1.6, North Shuneh 1.7, Wadi Al Yabis 1.0, Mafrag 5.0, Um Jamal 2.0, H-5 0.4, Sama Al Sarhan 0.5, Al Arin 4.0, H-4 1.6, Al Rubbah 0.8, Al Mazar 2.0, Tafieh 1.0, Shoubak 3.4 and Bayer 0.3.

Committee reports declining performance in agricultural sector

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special committee entrusted with preparing a plan for developing Jordan's agricultural sector over the coming five years (1986-1990) said in a report that the previous plan from 1981-1985 did very little to improve the agricultural situation in the country. The report said that nearly 20 per cent of the total population in Jordan depends on agriculture and this sector provides work for 12 per cent of the total Jordanian work force but the report added that this sector has declined noticeably over the past five years.

Agricultural production over the past five years, the report said, constituted only eight per cent of the Gross National Product, down from nine per cent in the previous

three-year development plan. The agricultural sector, it said, has failed to meet the food requirements of the growing population in Jordan, particularly the demand for meat and dairy products which meant that the country had to depend on imported meat for which JD 41 million were paid between 1973 and 1975, rising to JD 4.4 million between 1976-1980 and JD 181.1 million between 1981 and 1985.

According to the report, total government investments over the past decade focused on irrigation. Nearly JD 140 million was invested in this area of agriculture during the past five year plan, up from JD 47 million in the previous five-year plan.

The report, which was quoted by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily newspaper, said that one of the main reasons for this situation was a failure to adopt an integrated agricultural policy which had made agriculture dependent on other sectors.

Senate returns JMC law to House after heated debate

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament Wednesday returned a controversial draft law pertaining to the Jordan Medical Council (JMC) to the Lower House of Parliament following a heated debate and after introducing amendments to certain articles and rejecting others.

Another draft law granting the prime minister complete authority to lease state-owned lands to the public for agricultural purposes was endorsed during Tuesday's two-hour session. The session was presided over by Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai for the first 30 minutes. Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Majali took over the rest of the session. The law was passed unanimously as forwarded to the Senate from the House after the government requested it be discussed as a matter of urgency.

The JMC law, which has been long-debated by both Houses, again triggered debate between several Senate members and rapporteur of the legal committee Ahmad Tarawneh.

Senator Khalil Al Salem raised questions about the number of articles relevant to the title of the draft law and whether graduates at local faculties of medicine were subject to examination under the draft law. The law states that doctors and specialised doctors must undertake periodical tests to qualify their degrees of specialisation.

In reply to Dr. Khalil's inquiries, rapporteur Tarawneh said the draft law will be named after the day of issuance. Mr. Tarawneh also pointed out that awarding specialisation degrees jointly by the Ministry of Higher Education and the JMC could cause clashes between the authorities.

Dr. Khalil asked whether graduates from local universities have to take the test together with those obtaining degrees from abroad. Senator Abdul Rahman Khalifeh said the law makes no exceptions and that it is applied to every graduate, regardless of the origin of degree.

At this point, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh noted that the draft law, after amendment, does not exclude local graduates. The minister also said that local graduates do not have to sit the test under a

previous law of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA).

Senator Thogan Hindawi backed a decision by the legal committee to omit an article for holding specialisation tests every five years. Senators Mudar Badran, Walid Salah and Subhi Amro submitted an objection to the article as amended by the legal committee. Mr. Rifai supported the objection and favoured that the article be endorsed as presented by the House.

Senator Salem objected to an article stating that the JMC will lay down training specifications for doctors inside the Kingdom and abroad. Dr. Salem contended that the JMC cannot impose its specifications abroad. Mr. Tarawneh countered Dr. Salem's claims and said that the JMC is entitled to ask trainees abroad to take certain specialisations as deemed necessary. When finally put to vote,

the article was endorsed as presented by the legal committee.

Mr. Salem then proceeded to another article and requested that the JMC vice president be named as the JMA president but Senator Badran said the JMC president is a post for medical and not political purposes. After further debate, Dr. Salem's suggestion did not gain enough support to be adopted.

Sensors voted against the legal committee amendment to impose tests every five years and recommended the article be passed as presented by the House.

Election results

At the outset of Tuesday's session, Mr. Tarawneh read out the names of Senators elected as rapporteurs. The rapporteur election results were: Mr. Tarawneh for the legal committee, Dr. Khalil Salem for the financial committee, Mr. Juma'a Hammad for the administrative committee, Mr. Thogan Hindawi for the education committee and Mr. Rashid Orieiqat for the occupied territories affairs committee.

Eight draft laws pertaining to the Housing Bank and the Jordan National Geographic Centre (JNGC) were also endorsed as presented to the Senate by the House.

Leading judge, Mousa Saket, leaves bench for health reasons

AMMAN (J.T.) — A leading Jordanian judge, Mousa Al Saket, has decided to retire after serving with the judicial authority for 54 years. Mr. Saket whose last post was head of the Supreme Court, decided he could no longer stay in office due to health reasons.

The Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) is honouring Mr. Saket with a special reception to be held in his honour. Justice Minister Riyadh Al Shaka'a and members of the judiciary earlier paid tribute to Mr. Saket for his dedication and highly regarded services.

In a message to Mr. Saket, Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai praised the dedication and services of Mr. Saket which, he said, were characterised by wisdom and integrity. Mr. Rifai expressed his deep regret at Mr. Saket's res-

ignation and said that it came at a time when the country was in need of Mr. Saket's valuable efforts and ideas which had contributed to the march of justice in Jordan.



Mousa Al Saket

WE HAVE THE PEOPLE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS WE HAVE THE SERVICES TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

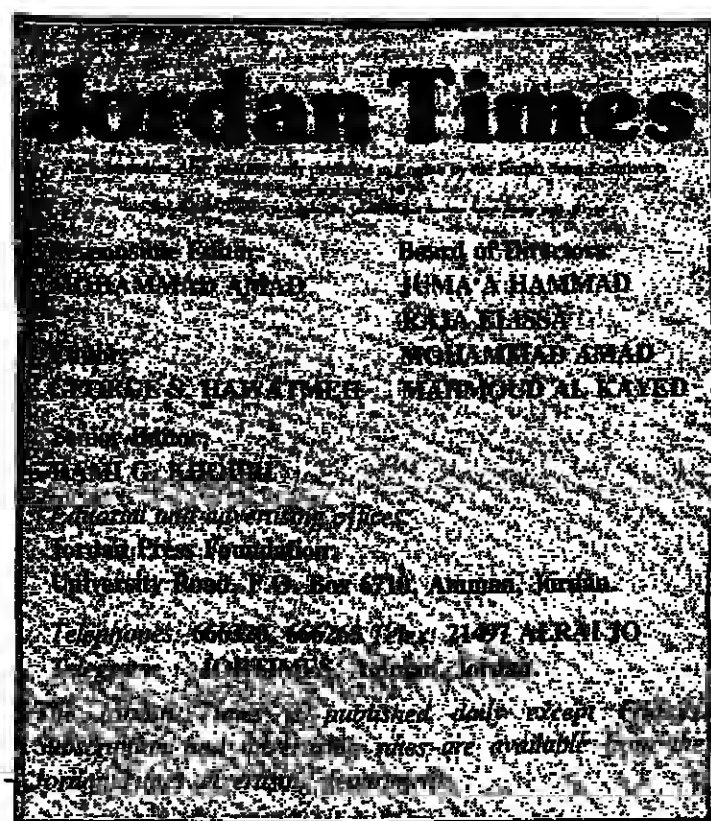


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Scheme that should go awry

ISRAEL'S unrepentant stand on its interception of the Libyan plane Tuesday calls into question the Jewish state's true intentions on making peace with the Arabs. Likewise, the U.S. attitude on this deplorable act of air piracy is a measure of Washington's deep involvement in Israeli practices of state terrorism. These are the two sides of the same coin that the Arab World has come to grips with sooner or later. Without proper understanding of the new kind of warfare that Israel is waging against the Arabs, with the blessings of the U.S. of course, it would be futile to complain to the U.N. or wait for the international community to do our job for us.

Israel, under the cover of "fighting terrorism," can intercept a civilian plane carrying a top Arab official and force it to land in one of its air bases. The U.S. says such an act can be justified and braces itself to veto any U.N. resolution that would condemn the crime. Surely there is something wrong with us Arabs if we just let out this torrent of words protesting and deploring these Israeli actions and American attitudes towards them and not go beyond it. How many times have our peoples been subjected to these and all kinds of humiliations by Israel and the U.S.? And what have our governments done to hit back effectively and swiftly at the source of danger? What, in effect, have the Arab states done to at least stop the Israeli acts of state terrorism from being repeated?

The list of Israeli violations of international law and norms is indeed long and exhausting. But this is hardly as important as the nature of the new type of warfare that Israel is waging against us. The Israelis have of late tried and seem to have succeeded in transforming the Arab-Israeli conflict into a triangular crisis involving a third party, a superpower called America, under the title "terrorism in the Middle East and the war against it." And the Americans have for some time now played the game exactly the way Israel wanted them to.

The interception of the Libyan plane was but the latest example of Israel inviting American involvement in its fight against the Palestinians. Earlier examples are to be found in the bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunis last October which eventually resulted in no less than the U.S. itself hijacking an Egyptian plane to Italy.

If Palestinian leaders were indeed on board the hijacked Libyan plane, the U.S. would have no doubt fully supported the interception. This inevitably would have led to retaliation by Palestinian groups against both Israel and the U.S., and Washington would have found itself even more deeply involved — on the side of Israel, no doubt — in the triangular conflict.

In sum, Israel sees its acts of terror against the Palestinians as worth the cost it might pay for them, including in human life. Therefore it is highly unlikely to abandon them under the present circumstances. What the Arabs should do in this case is to, first, pay more attention to what is really happening and understand Israel's true intentions and, second, do what is necessary to foil this dangerous scheme before things get out of hand and we find ourselves in an endless war with America.

This can be done not through launching more complaints at the U.N. nor by using any guerrilla machine against Israel and the Americans. The way to confront the Zionists and their backers is through collective Arab action which should carry the full weight of 22 states behind our strategic interests and objectives.

Credibility starts at home, first and foremost. And if the hijacking of the Libyan plane will open the door to holding the long-delayed Arab summit, then our enemy will have done us a big favour.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israeli terrorism

ISRAEL has provided a new piece of evidence to the fact that it conducts organised terrorism and piracy with its hijacking of the Arab airliner in international air space. The new crime displays Israel's total disregard to international laws and principles and furnishes new proof of the evil nature of Israel and its leaders. The whole world now realises the reality about the Zionists and their actions in the Middle East region and their total disregard of any principles and laws. But we have ourselves to blame too because we are weak owing to our divisions and internal disputes. King Hussein's telephone call to President Assad of Syria expressed Jordan's total support for its stand with regard to this new crime. But in the absence of total unity of action we remain weak, and in the absence of solidarity and joint mobilisation of our resources and power our lands will remain open for more aggression by our common enemy. Any condemnation of terrorism should be directed to countries which practice such terrorism rather than individuals and groups.

Al Dustour: Who is the terrorist?

ONCE again Israel commits another terrorist action similar to those committed by any other terrorist group or individual. This hijacking of an Arab civil plane in violation of all international rules and norms is perhaps the most sinister action committed by the Israeli terrorists as it comes amidst a campaign by a superpower against an Arab country which Washington calls terrorist and amidst U.S. sanctions imposed on Libya which Washington accuses of being terrorist without an evidence to support such claims. Israel, as a member state of the United Nations, continues to enjoy U.S. support for all its acts of terrorism including this hijacking of a civilian plane and continues to get backing for all its acts in our region. This support opens the door wide for encouraging the Israelis to continue their inhuman practices against the Arabs and also to pursue acts of terrorism against their countries. The U.S. itself, which a few months ago hijacked an Egyptian plane, has set the scene for Israel's action on Tuesday, encouraging it to commit a similar act of terrorism and air piracy.

Sawt Al Shaab: Enemies of peace

JORDAN rallied to support Syria vis-a-vis the hijacking of an Arab plane carrying Syrian officials in international air space and voiced backing for Damascus in its drive to seek world-wide condemnation of the action. Jordan hopes that Israel's ill practices will be further exposed and condemned because it wants the international community to bear the responsibility of stopping such actions and putting an end to Zionist disregard of international laws. There was no need for Israel to hijack an Arab plane to prove that it is a terrorist state because its history attests to that. Its violations of international laws represent an evidence that its leaders do not respect any principles or laws. These leaders have their hands full of blood as a result of crimes committed against humanity in general and the Arab people in particular.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Peoples' rights and Americans' double standards

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — In my studies of the wonderful Arabic language, I have been struck how many words come from the root *for*. The words *for* for nation, *for* for value, and *for* for resurrection. And the phrase *for* which means irresistible.

As an American, I am happy that my own people and government support the struggle of blacks in Africa for freedom and justice. I find it incomprehensible that the government and too many of the people cannot apply the same morality to Arabs, and especially Palestinians. What is racist oppression when perpetrated against blacks by the white South African military becomes heroic self-defence when perpetrated by Israelis against Arabs. South African attacks against exiles in the small country of Lesotho were condemned as ruthless aggression. The Israeli attacks against

instP.O. headquarters in Tunis were hailed as justifiable strikes against terrorists. Dead Palestinian children in Tunis are simply dismissed as inevitable results of necessary anti-terrorist action. Dead black children in South Africa are regarded in the U.S. media as victims of white oppression.

But even the American media have begun to get a sense of the stubborn will to survive, the determination to keep their identity as a people, the unending anger which energises so many Palestinians. In the 1960's, white Americans began to hear of "black rage." Now, despite their hostile attitudes towards Arabs, Americans are beginning to sense that there also is a Palestinian rage.

When the Reagan administration began to thunder against Libya, the media began to look everywhere for sensational stories about "Abu Nidal." Abu Nidal, it was sug-

gested, was the leader of some darkly mysterious terrorist society which for some irrational reasons threw bombs at children. The entire terrorism problem, the media implied, could be resolved if only "civilised" nations cooperated to wipe out these criminal bands.

Yet every once in a while, there is a glimmer of recognition in the American media that there is a Palestinian people, that they hold to deep values like all other peoples, and that despite having been beaten down time upon time, sometimes by their own Middle Eastern cousins, they have been undergoing a resurrection.

Palestinians seem a lot like Jews historically. Jews were beaten down, oppressed, killed, forced to move from place to place throughout European history. Yet they survived. They clung to life, their religion, their identity with tremendous tenaciousness. And

when Hitler tried to exterminate them, they nevertheless survived. Yet those in Palestine forgot their history of suffering and began to inflict suffering on their Arab neighbours. And now the Jews of Palestine can look at their Palestinian neighbours and see a mirror image of their own history.

Palestinians have the strength of family, of a love of education, of a strong belief in God whether they be Muslim or Christian. Above all, they keep on going, no matter how great the obstacles. How incredible the survival of Palestinians for so many years in the refugee camps of several Middle Eastern nations. And how amazing that they have survived crowded together in the Gaza strip where Israelis use them as low-wage labour, much the same way as South African whites use blacks.

My government would prefer that the Palestinians quiet

down, vanish. It wants no trouble in the Middle East. It wants the oil to keep flowing, the money to be quickly turned back into the world economy. But the Palestinians will not vanish. They keep on rising up. And no matter how much the American media keep on focusing on Col. Qadhafi and distracting attention from the Palestinian issue, the Palestinians keep on coming back and rising up into the news. One can easily understand why the Israelis so hate the Palestinians. Like South African whites who love their black servants, the Israelis would prefer that their "Arabs" work for them quietly, docilely, and at low wages. They want their Palestinians to lie down and not rise up.

The U.S. has contrived an intricate mechanism of policy towards the Middle East. It is intricate because Washington has decided that its military force cannot succeed. That

mechanism seeks, quietly, to draw all parties to disputes in, all except Libya and the Palestinians. The Libyans are convenient scapegoats, but the Palestinians are a factor that, in Washington's view, will ruin the fine mechanism it has put together.

Israel is the Taiwan of western Asia, but the Palestinians are absolutely not like the people who formed the "Taiwan Independence Movement." The U.S. easily disregarded the latter, and so now there are close U.S.-China relations with Taiwan still untouched by Peking. But there is no way the Palestinians can be disregarded. Sooner or later, the U.S. must come to terms with the vast world of Arabs and of Islam. And the Palestinians remain a central element in that world, even if Arabs and Muslims have so often disregarded and even betrayed them.

What is behind Iran's 'charm offensive'?

By Safa Haeri

THE official visit of Iran's President Seyyed Ali Khamenei to Pakistan, where he received the same kind of warm reception Pakistan used, in the past, to give the shah, as well as the four African "front-line" states of Tanzania, Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe has important implications for both the Islamic Republic's internal and external situations.

Externally, it underlines the regime's desire to break out of its chosen course of international isolation. This wish may not be shared by all of Iran's leaders, some of whom continue to insist on the rejection of the "East and West's" corrupt values and civilisation. Nevertheless, the visits show that, for the time being at least, those in favour of "normalising" the Islamic Republic's relations with the outside world have the upper hand.

In the closing days of 1985, Tehran was the scene of a constant *va et vient* by foreign dignitaries as Iranian diplomacy deployed itself actively on various fronts. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, paid his first official visit to Saudi Arabia, Iraq's main financial ally; the Turkish prime minister, Turgut Ozal, came to Tehran to discuss new trade agreements, increasing two-way trade exchanges between both countries to over \$3 billion a year; an important Japanese parliamentary and oil delegation investigated the possibilities of boosting Japanese oil purchases from Iran and strengthening diplomatic, economic and cultural relations between Tehran and Tokyo. The Soviet ambassador in Tehran prepared for the visit to Iran of the first deputy of the USSR's foreign ministry. And for the first time, an Iranian delegation went to Morocco to participate in the meeting of the 41-member Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO). (Iran has no diplomatic relations with Morocco, whose King Hassan received the shah when he fled the country in 1979). In addition, a visit by India's foreign minister, one of the founding fathers of the non-aligned movement in which Iran is playing a leading role, was closely preceded by that of the Pope's first official envoy to the Islamic Rep-

ublic, to perform a Christmas mass for hundreds of thousands of Iranian Christians as well as some 500 Iraqi Christian prisoners of war.

But most important among all this to-ing and fro-ing was the visit of a powerful, "multi-ministerial" delegation led by French Ambassador Jacques Martin, with the aim of removing basic obstacles to improving strained Franco-Iranian relations.

Ayatollah Khomeini's conditions for normalising relations with France are, first, repayment with interest of a \$1 billion loan granted to France in 1975 by the shah; second, the stopping of delivery to Iraq of sophisticated arms, or, alternatively, the sale to Iran of similar weapons; and third, silencing, or greatly reducing, the activities of exiled Iranians in Paris opposed to the Islamic regime.

Iran's "charm offensive" abroad has been coupled with a clear definition of the roles of president, prime minister and parliament. Until quite recently, Hojatoleslam Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of the powerful Majlis (parliament) — and the regime's "strongman" — was running everything, conducting from behind the affairs of the presidency as well as those of the prime minister. Now, following Ayatollah Khomeini's latest instructions, a real "troika" has taken shape at the top. The first result of this separation of roles is that each can dedicate more time to his proper responsibilities and less to the hitherto all-absorbing struggle for power. Such devotion to duty among top decision-makers is badly needed, as the regime, despite wielding considerable influence over many other Third World nations, has so far produced few tangible achievements for its own people.

The results are clearly discernible. While President Khomeini goes abroad to bring the voice of the Iranian Islamic revolution to the "deprived nations" of Asia and Africa, Prime Minister Mir Hussein Mousavi can devote more time to pressing problems at home, instead of being passed like a football between the two main contenders for power, Rafsanjani and Khomeini — Middle East International, London.

Filipinos tired of being America's 'little brown brothers'

By David Goddard
Reuter

MANILA — The Philippines, puzzled, angry and hurt by savage verbal slurs fired by its political and financial mentor, has signalled it wants a new relationship with the United States.

The main emphasis is on two military bases — the biggest outside the continental United States — which have made the country of 7,000 islands a lynchpin of Western strategy in the Pacific.

But many Filipinos, spurred on by a bruising election battle which could end with President Ferdinand Marcos being toppled by a 53-year-old housewife on Friday, seem to be discovering a new sense of national pride and dignity.

They say it's time for change and they are tired of being dubbed "America's little brown brothers."

The Philippines has had trouble with Westerners from the time explorer Ferdinand Magellan dropped anchor in 1521. The United States bought the country from the Spanish colonial rulers for \$20 million in 1898 and it as a colony for 40 more years and has been pumping cash into it ever since.

Marcos has spent most of his election campaign riding out a continual stream of politically embarrassing U.S. reports about his health, alleged hidden wealth and that he faked a career as a war hero. The latest charge against him is that he owes New York City nearly \$1 million in taxes on a house.

All this has been seized upon by supporters of opposition leader Corason Aquino as grist for their campaign mill. She has branded Marcos as an evil genius surrounded by unthinking clones who has run amok in the Philippines for 20 years.

But behind the election rhetoric is a growing sense that the U.S. government believes that Marcos is bathing in the sunset of his power and the time is ripe to prepare the ground for talking to a possible successor.

Whether the successor will be Aquino is not clear. Political analysts in Manila say the "dump Marcos" lobby in the corridors of Washington may be having second thoughts because, as Marcos herself claims and Aquino herself admits, she is untested in government.

Former U.S. attorney-general Ramsey Clarke told Filipino journalists the Reagan administration may encourage a military coup if

the elections were rigged and triggered social turbulence. He said the United States had set up "all sorts of contingency plans" for the Philippines.

America's aggressive interest in the election has drawn accusations from ministers and the pro-Marcos press of Washington meddling.

U.S. envoy Stephen Bosworth has been denounced as "America's governor-general" and an apologist for Aquino. Columnists have accused the U.S. media of waging a vendetta against Marcos and called Americans "neanderthals" who send "men little better than seducers and cowboys" to the White House.

Labour Minister Blas Ople charged that a small band of "hawks" in Washington had apparently colluded with some Philippine opposition leaders to undermine Marcos. He alleged there was a "Trans-Pacific conspiracy" which could result in the loss of the Philippines as an ally to the United States.

But when Marcos told businessmen in a campaign speech last week he wanted to overhaul Philippine-U.S. relations, he fuelled more serious speculation about the future course of ties with the country that has approved \$260 million worth of aid in 1986. Marcos called for the cla-

rification of what he described as "the present haziness of our relations with the United States." This included defence obligations and the compensation package for the Subic Bay Navy Base and Clark Air Force Base near Manila. He favours continuing the bases treaty when it expires in 1991 but under more favourable terms. Aquino says the matter should be put to a referendum.

The Philippines relies heavily on U.S. cash infusions. Its economy is in a shambles because of a heavy flight of capital in the social upheavals that followed the 1983 killing of Aquino's husband Benigno. World prices for sugar — one of the country's biggest exports — slumped the following year. It now has foreign debts of more than \$25 billion.

The U.S. government is handing over \$180 million in aid this year as "rent" for the two bases. Over five years it says it will make what it calls its "best effort" to give \$900 million.

Reagan has promised to step up aid if the elections are free and fair. But some of his advisers, and Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who is heading an official U.S. poll watch team, have said they doubt whether fraud can be avoided.

Latest photo of Mr. Peres

From Rabah — Al Ra'i

Botha's latest proposal still too far from blacks' aspirations

By Victor Mallet
Reuter

CAPE TOWN — South African President P.W. Botha has radically changed his image in the past few days, ditching his belligerent manner in a sophisticated public relations campaign to motivate his policies.

His new style has impressed whites but many of the black majority call it window-dressing, saying he is still unwilling to share real political power.

On Jan. 31, Botha opened the white-dominated parliament with a speech in which he said apartheid was an outdated concept and promised to scrap the "pass laws" that restrict where blacks may live and work.

He offered blacks representation on an advisory council that will discuss South Africa's constitutional future.

Botha quickly followed the speech with a broadcast appealing to blacks to negotiate with the government and with an advertising campaign that promotes the slogan: "My government and I are

committed to power-sharing." His idea of power-sharing is markedly different from that of his radical black opponents, many of whom have taken to the streets in two years of riots.

Botha excludes one-person, one-vote in a unitary state, which would lead to black majority rule in a country with 24 million whites and less than five million blacks.

It is just such a system that his main opponents, the banned African National Congress (ANC) black nationalist organisation and the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF), say they want.

The independent South African Institute of Race Relations said in a commentary on Botha's speech: "Mr. Botha has yet to cross the bridge of committing himself to bringing blacks into parliament itself."

Parliament has separate chambers for white, Indian and coloureds (people of mixed race). Blacks are not represented.

The institute added: "But the (advisory) council is the first tangible sign that the government is

beginning to outgrow political apartheid... the main drawback is that the council will only be advisory and the big question is how many black leaders of any consequence will join it."

Desmond Tutu, Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg and a vigorous anti-apartheid campaigner, said he would not consider sitting on the council. "Who wants a statutory council that does not rule the country?," he asked at a news conference.

As one apartheid law after another is toned down or abolished, the issue of power-sharing increasingly overshadows racial segregation in the South African political arena.

Botha's speech was praised by white supporters who said it contained hold initiatives, condemned by extreme right-wing whites who said it betrayed white interests and dismissed by the ANC and the UDF who said it yielded nothing new.

LETTERS

UNRWA: No cuts in services

To the Editor,

TO CLARIFY a few points in your article Tuesday Feb. 4 about UNRWA's financial position, which attributes to Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli statements he did not make to your reporter:

— UNRWA's estimated budget for 1986 is \$194.2 million, of which the cash component (leaving aside contributions in kind) is \$176 million. Of that \$176 million, \$8.1 million is budgeted for capital construction projects which will not be carried out unless specific contributions are received for them. So far, this construction budget is unfunded.

— Our projected cash needs to run our regular programmes, plus ongoing projects funded by special contributions, including those of non-governmental organisations cooperating with UNRWA, are estimated therefore at some \$168 million.

— At this point, our income estimates for 1986 still show a shortfall between projected expenditure and estimated contributions of some \$10-11 million, to fund our minimum cash general fund and project requirements, leaving aside construction of badly needed schools, clinics and sanitary facilities. So far, we have received actual pledges of only some \$60 million and we have a long way to go to fill the remaining gap.

— UNRWA got through the financial crisis of 1985 by taking austerity measures which did not reduce the volume of services delivered to Palestine refugees. Therefore, to speak of "further cuts in services" is inaccurate. However, budget cuts that have been made will have to be reinstated one day if services are to be adequately maintained.

As your article points out, each year we must educate more children, see more patients at our health centres and generally meet the needs of a growing refugee population, despite a general decline in the nominal value of the contributions from donor countries and agencies on which we depend solely. We have informed the world community that financing the UNRWA programme in future years "will require an increase in regular contributions on a sustained and continuous basis on the order of \$20 million a year."

— Finally, one of the key areas of cooperation between UNRWA and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with whom we've been conferring in Amman this week, is the notion of income-generation projects, which comes within the field of relief services. We are seeking financial support for projects which would allow some of the most destitute refugees to become self-supporting, and we are looking also to NGOs to help supply expertise in this field.

William Lee
Public Information Officer
UNRWA

هكذا من الرجل

2,000-year-old Libyan farms point the way ahead

Ruins of farms dating from Roman times show that farmers once made money turning Libya's semi-arid regions. They did it with simple technology. Maybe it can be done again. Alan George is a geographer and freelance journalist based in London.

TRIPOLI, Libya — It looks like merely digging about in the desert, but it is in fact "the best example I know of making archaeology relevant to modern problems," according to Barri Jones, professor of archaeology at the University of Manchester, U.K.

The UNESCO-backed Libyan Valleys Survey, of which Jones is co-director, aims to discover how farms flourished in Libya in Roman times where today there is only desert. If the 2,000-year-old techniques can be rediscovered, then perhaps agriculture can be re-established in much of dryland North Africa.

The Survey dates from 1978, when Colonel Qadhafi suggested that the country's Department of Antiquities should investigate the extensive remains of Roman farming systems. A British team from the Universities of Manchester and Sheffield began in 1979 to concentrate on an 11,000 square kilometre area south of Tripoli, and a French team from the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris began investigating a similar-sized area in the Sirica region of north central Libya.

In the 1950s and 1960s the remains of farms were investigated by the British archaeologist Richard Goodchild, who dated them to the late third century A.D., near the end of the Roman period. The most striking remains are a series of stone "castles" along the edges of wadis (dry streambeds which flow in the short rainy seasons). These structures are often near stone walls running across the narrower tributary wadis at frequent intervals.

Goodchild hypothesised that the "castles", known locally as "gaur", were fortified farms established by Roman colonists. But

the UNESCO survey established that the "gaur" represent a late stage in the development of the settled agricultural communities which began to flourish in the first century A.D., in early Roman times. It appears that the farms were not built by colonists, but by local people who were responding to increased demand for agricultural produce in the expanding Roman cities along the coast to the north.

Settlements are concentrated along the narrower wadis, which are up to 500 metres wide, with sloping rather than steep sides, and particularly at tributary junctions. The associated wall systems, extending from the surrounding plateaus down to the wadi floors, were sophisticated water harvesting networks.

The walls were designed "to channel the rainfall from a large catchment area on the surrounding plateaus as efficiently as possible down to a much smaller area of the wadi floor, and there to slow down the water flow by a chain of cross walls, to maximise soil irrigation and silt deposition in the agricultural area," according to the British survey team. Other walls channelled run-off into cisterns.

Investigations by botanists attached to the UNESCO team have established that the settlements practised an intensive mixed agriculture, growing barley, wheat, figs, dates, watermelons, olives, grapes and lentils. They kept sheep, goats, camels and donkeys. More stock was herded in the southern settlements, where rainfall was lower.

The UNESCO team is still debating the chronology of the system's collapse. It appears that the



The ruins of a stone "castle" or fortified farm probably built by local farmers in the first century AD. Can the desert be made to support such farms again? (Photo by UNESCO)

southern farms were abandoned towards the end of the Roman period, with the population reverting to nomadic pastoralism. The northern settlements survived much longer, and one carbon-14 dating test indicated that they were still functioning in the ninth century — well into Islamic times.

The main reason why the settlements withered appears to have been the decline of the cities, and thus of markets, along the coast. No evidence suggests that any

major changes in rainfall levels played a part.

But there are indications that the region might have been slightly wetter in Roman times than it is now. If tests confirm this, it could prove crucial in understanding the demise of the settlements. In such a marginal environment, even a tiny change in rainfall can have a drastic impact on the frequency of droughts.

Soil erosion appears to have played a part in the settlement's collapse. The wadi soils were much the same in Roman times as they are today. On the plateaus, however, where livestock grazed, it seems to have been a mature soil which developed in a wetter period before Roman times. Overgrazing by the Romano-Libyan farmers eroded it at a time when greater aridity prevented it from re-forming.

For modern agriculture, the main significance of the Libyan Valleys Survey has been to highlight the way in which soil and water can be conserved in semi-arid regions by careful management of run-off, using very simple technology.

Libya has long-term plans for a major expansion of farming in its semi-desert regions. As Professor Jones says, the survey means that "experimental farms which are pushing southwards into the desert can be guided to areas which we know were cultivated 2,000 years ago" — Earthscan.

Randa Habibi's Corner

Marka Airport again

IN response to my corner on Marka Airport (Jan. 23-24), the Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Mr. Khaled Mohammad Ali, invited me to his office and told me the following facts about the airport:

- The airport, the oldest in the Kingdom, is a fully certified international airport and is kept fully operational to cater for its users as well as alternative for the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA).
 - The airport is being used by His Majesty King Hussein and his heads of states guests.
 - The airport serves the Royal Squadron, the Royal Air Force, the Royal Air Academy and the Arab Wings.
 - The airport, in addition to its passengers' terminals, houses the Arab Air Academy, and the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Training Institute.
 - The airport's daily movement is 100 flights.
 - At present, the CAA and Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, are holding talks to explore the possibilities of using Marka Airport for certain cargo flights.
 - Upon directives by His Majesty the King, the airports' runways, taxiways and parking areas will be asphalted and marked.
 - There are areas, especially offices, which can be used for investment. The CAA is willing to negotiate with interested investors.
 - There are also plans to use the airport for the Amman/Aqaba/Amman flights and for any future domestic flights.
- Again, I thank Mr. Ali and regret any inconvenience caused by my previous article on the Marka Airport.

Secret room aids U.S. president in times of crisis

By Gene Gibbons
Reuter

WASHINGTON — If World War Three should break out, a handful of men and women who work in a subterranean White House chamber will be among the first to know.

Called the "situation room" and equipped with the latest in advanced communications gear, the two-room basement complex is in constant contact with U.S. military and diplomatic outposts in every corner of the globe.

White House sources say this has been the scene of national security dramas ranging from President Kennedy managing the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 to President Reagan following developments in recent Middle East hostage crises.

Yet those who have seen it say the place is a far cry from its Hollywood image as a lavishly appointed bomb shelter studded with clocks, red emergency telephones and wall maps.

But for paperwork, stamped "Top Secret" and two large data decoding machines, they say, the complex known to insiders as "the sit room" could pass for an ordinary business office.

The nerve centre is a wood-paneled conference room 25 feet long and 15 feet wide where the president and his top advisers meet. It can comfortably seat only about a dozen round a conference table and has television sets and video recording units on shelves along one wall.

This room is partitioned off from a larger L-shaped area containing several computer workstations similar to those found in any modern office.

According to a former official of the National Security Council (NSC), the situation room was set up during Kennedy's era in the early 1960s using space previously occupied by a White House bowling alley.

A lot of communications equipment left over from World War Two was stored in an old White House bomb shelter, said the

ex-official, who in keeping with NSC tradition asked not to be identified. "We just took that beat-up old equipment over there and started opening communications lines."

The gear has since been modernised, and watch officers use it round the clock to keep the president abreast of international developments.

A loop of the Washington-Moscow hotline also comes into the basement facility, but it is only for monitoring hotline message traffic. The secure teletype link between the superpowers actually terminates at the Pentagon, and that is where messages are received and sent in times of tension.

While the situation room normally functions as a kind of collection point for information from the State and Defence Departments and U.S. intelligence agencies, officials say it sometimes doubles as a top-level command post.

One such instance, the officials said, was last October, when U.S. warplanes from the carrier Saratoga intercepted an Egyptian jetliner carrying a group of Palestinian alleged to have hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro.

The operation was run from the "sit room" by a team of officials led by Admiral John Poindexter, who has since become Reagan's national security adviser.

The room also played a role in an incident that generated great controversy, when then-Secretary of State Alexander Haig abruptly announced "I am in control here" after John Hinckley Jr. shot Reagan in an assassination attempt in 1981.

Haig later said his breathless state as he appeared on live television before the White House press corps was caused by having run "headlong up the narrow stairs" from the situation room to the main White House working area to brief reporters.

A source familiar with the secret basement chamber said, however, that "big important decisions" are not ordinarily made there.

A reforming mayor with a difference

The Brazilian city of Fortaleza is up to its eyes in debt, there is corruption, payrolls are bloated and age-old industries are dying. The new mayor has a tough task facing these problems because, in this land of macho male dominance, the mayor is a woman. Ann Charters reports from the city.

THE newly-elected mayor of Fortaleza, Brazil's fifth most populous city, is overturning all political conventions and challenging the continued conservatism of government since the end of military rule last year.

Ms. Maria Luiza Fontanelle took office on January 1 but has wasted little time in making her mark. Her most controversial action has been to back striking municipal workers who shut down services in this northeastern city. Her aim is to lay the blame for the chaos in municipal finances she inherited firmly at the feet of the federal government in a meeting with President Jose Sarney.

She is calling on the government to absorb Cruzeros 500 billion (\$44 million) in debts accumulated under previous civic administrations and federal monies to pay past due wages and year-end bonuses for the striking workers.

Meanwhile, caught in midsummer with thousands of tourists toasting on nearby beaches, Fortaleza is also filling up with one week's uncollected garbage as the mayor trades claims of corruption and payrolls bloated with ghost-workers with other officials who threaten judicial action if she fails to return order to the city.

Her upset victory in last November's municipal elections with its Brazil-wide reverberations broke all norms espoused by political pundits for a successful candidacy. Twice divorced at the age of 43 with little political party support, "Maria Luiza" was elected in the impoverished state of Ceara in north-eastern Brazil.

long noted as a bastion of male dominance in agriculture, government and business.

Called a female Padre Ciem after a defrocked priest in the early 1980s who mystically united peasants in the drought-stricken interior of Ceara into a political base, Maria Luiza rejects the comparison. She maintains her appeal is real, not based on promising miracles, in tackling the city's problems together with the residents. Folk-herm she may not yet be, but Maria Luiza sensed the population's demands for change.

With only a 10,000-vote margin out of 550,000 total votes cast, the seven-year veteran state assemblywoman has carved her constituency out from among the poor, students and women.

Their support, she revealed in pre-election polls and surprising even Maria Luiza herself, is a fact no longer lost on local politicians long accustomed to handpicking candidates for office and distributing patronage. The practice, a part of "coronelismo" (power brokering), is historic in north-eastern Brazil.

Those who owned the large tracts of land or built commercial fortunes became the political bosses or coronels (colonels).

In Ceara, Maria Luiza has to contend with a powerful triumvirate, one a former Minister of Mines and Energy under the recently-deposed military government, and now the vice-governor of the state.

Another is the governor, intent on forming his own political base with the ruling Brazilian Democratic Movement Party.

Elected twice to the state legislature on the PMDB ticket, Maria Luiza broke with the party three months before the election to run for mayor as candidate of the Worker's Party (PT). More socialist in orientation and combatively leftist, she finds the PT more suited to her viewpoints. She speaks of the people's struggle to end favouritism, repression and violence as practised by the coronels and the need to make government accountable to the people.

Her campaign focused on what she saw as the minuscule differences between the old regime and Brazil's new civilian government. Asking pointedly "what is new about the New Republic?" with practically no support from PT national leaders during the campaign, she garnered 32.5 per cent of the votes compared with the party's showing of 0.1 per cent in the 1982 state elections.

During the campaign, she identified closely with the common folk. Dressed in jeans and a simple pretty blouse, she treated hangers-on spilling into her office and the innumerable phone calls with measured attention and warmth, punctuating her pertinent questions with a throaty "querida" (dear), as a form of address. With energy contagious even in Fortaleza's 37-degree heat, the former sociology professor with an M.A. in development sociology from Vanderbilt University in the U.S. carefully rationed her time in frenetic sun-up-to-sundown schedule.

Governing Fortaleza, a city ridden with debt and sinking into the red as 90 per cent of monthly revenues just cover salaries for 35,000 city employees, will be no mean feat. In her case, it presents even more of a challenge because

W. German spy scandal resurfaces with mystery agent scare

By Paul Holmes
Reuter

BONN — A spy scandal in West Germany that seemed laid to rest is resurfacing with mystery in Bonn over the fate of a top Western agent and hints from East Germany that it could hit back with fresh disclosures of its own.

The espionage crisis erupted last August with the defection to East Berlin of the counter-intelligence officer in charge of hunting down Communist East German spies, Hansjoachim Tiedge.

This week, his former chief Herbert Hellenbroich told a public parliamentary enquiry into the affair that he believed a valuable agent on a sensitive mission inside East Germany had been betrayed by Tiedge and "liquidated."

"I must assume that the person in question is no longer alive, even if I have not seen the corpse," he said.

Hellenbroich's testimony, though contradicted in Bonn, has launched the spy scandal back into the headlines here after weeks in which the focus of enquiry had shifted to issues that had little bearing on Tiedge's defection.

In a sign that more surprises may be on the way, East Germany's official agency ADN suggested that Tiedge could soon break his own lengthy silence on the affair.

"Tiedge can give the lie to Hellenbroich's stories about the security services in the GDR (East Germany) by statements which have not yet been published," ADN said.

The agency, clearly relaying a statement by East German security services, said Hellenbroich was trying to mask his own failures. It denied that the "top agent" had ever existed.

He told the enquiry last Thursday that he felt Tiedge's intimate knowledge of a high-risk operation involving the agent in East Germany made him less dangerous inside the service than out. "Unfortunately, I figured it wrong," he said.

The mystery shrouding the operation deepened on Friday when Hellenbroich's successor as counter-intelligence chief, Holger Pfahls, confirmed a Western agent existed but told the enquiry there was no evidence of an execution. He did not elaborate.

Both accounts follow news reports two months ago that Tiedge had betrayed two Western spies who had worked their way into the personal circle of East German leader Erich Honecker. The reports said they faced the death pen-

No matter who wins the elections, Philippines faces major change

By Graham Lovell
Reuter

MANILA — Whoever wins the presidential election next week, the Philippines may never be quite the same again.

President Ferdinand Marcos, at 68 seeking re-election for a fourth term, has promised major reorganisation of government structure and possibly a new constitution, the third since he came to power in 1965.

He has vowed to shake Filipinos out of generations of lethargy and revitalise the country and its sick economy with what he calls the Philippine ideology.

His opponent, Corason Aquino, says her priorities would be to dismantle the "Marcos dictatorship" and its stranglehold on government, money and business, and certainly to rewrite the constitution which Marcos imposed on the country in 1973.

The Marcos political machine, built up over 26 years with a mix-

ture of muscle, patronage, cash and authoritarian populist government, is crumbling. But it is confident it will deliver the votes on February 7.

Less clear is whether the Aquino camp and her running mate Salvador Laurel can translate into votes the support of tens of thousands of people who turned out on the campaign trail to cheer and promise them their ballots.

Both sides have made, if elected, pledges. Marcos has been able to reinforce his with on-the-spot announcements of benefits to constituencies in which he is campaigning.

But the overwhelming mood is for change, with or without Marcos.

There are nagging doubts. Many of the 27 million voters wonder whether "Cory" Aquino, 53-year-old widow of opposition leader Benigno Aquino, has the experience and skill to govern the country.

Marcos points to Communist

insurgency which has grown during the past decade and says she is naive in believing she can deal with the rebels.

He repeatedly raises the spectre of civil war, citing the experience of Indonesia in 1965 with hundreds of thousands killed as the result of an attempted coup d'etat by Communists who had been given a share of government.

He points to the help she will get from "advisers" and asks whether they will be on hand when she needs to make a snap decision on urgent matters of state.

Aquino sweeps aside his disdain for her inexperience, declaring at one campaign speech: "I concede that I cannot match Mr. Marcos when it comes to experience."

"I admit I have no experience in cheating, stealing, lying or assassinating political opponents," she said.

The murder of her husband at Manila airport in August 1983 was the catalyst for crisis. Violence flared in the streets.

Scared investors pulled out their money and the economy took a nose dive, leaving the country with a \$26 billion debt and little sign of early recovery. It forced Marcos to call the election nearly 18 months ahead of schedule.

The campaign has been peppered with rumours about his health, always denied by the government, allegations of secret \$350 million property investments in the United States and most recently reports casting doubt on his record as a wartime guerrilla hero against the Japanese occupation forces.

The election has also become the focus of attention in the United States, which has two major military bases and about \$2.5 billion in private investment in the Philippines.

Up to now Washington has been Marcos' staunchest supporter. But it has shown increasing irritation at what it sees as his slow-motion efforts at major domestic reforms.



HAMBURGER ON ICE: Rudiger Nehberg, of Hamburg, takes advantage of the lovely weather to hack a hole in an iced-over pond so he can go swimming. Nehberg is a survival expert who has survived in various parts of the world. He says he doesn't catch colds. (Photo: dpa)

Australia beats India to take lead in WSC

SYDNEY (R) — Australia beat India by 11 runs in the last over Wednesday to go one up in the best-of-three World Series Cup one-day cricket final.

After rain interrupted play during the afternoon of the day-night game, the match was restricted to 44 overs a side. Australia's total of 170 for eight was far from formidable but proved beyond the Indians who were bowled out for 159 off the fourth ball of the 44th over.

Two players better known for

were let down by the batting that followed.

For their part India started badly, slumping to 11 for two after openers Ravi Shastri and Krishnamachari Srikkanth went cheaply. Dilip Vengsarkar, with 45, and Sunil Gavaskar, who made 32 despite an injured finger, battled in vain to revive the innings.

The second match takes place in Melbourne next Sunday with the third game, if needed, scheduled for Sydney the following Tuesday.

Celtics, Pacers enjoy winning streaks

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boston Celtics own the longest winning streak of the NBA season — and the Indiana Pacers own their longest winning streak in almost two years.

Indiana's four-game streak may seem modest alongside the Celtics' 12-gamer, but it's all theirs nonetheless.

"We're playing real good defense as a team, gambling and taking advantage of certain situations," Herb Williams said after scoring 25 points to lead Indiana over the New Jersey Nets 117-101 Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, center Robert Parish scored 12 of his 20 points in the third quarter, keying a 20-7 spurt that opened the second half and sparked the Celtics to a 112-93 victory over Milwaukee. Coach K.C. Jones was reluctant to dwell on the streak.

"You start talking about streaks in this team, then what's going to start happening is you start thinking beyond the next three or four games," Jones said.

In other action, the Los Angeles Lakers beat Dallas 110-102, Cle-

veland nipped Atlanta 105-104, Detroit edged Chicago 117-115, Denver edged Portland 119-118, San Antonio outlasted Seattle 124-119 in overtime and Phoenix defeated Golden State 127-118.

Celtics 112, Bucks 93

Larry Bird scored 24 points for Boston while Terry Cummings had the same number for Milwaukee.

"The key was the way Robert Parish started the second half," said Bill Walton, Parish's backup. "It just sort of picked everybody up."

Lakers 110, Mavericks 102

Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Mike McGee scored 21 points apiece as Los Angeles rallied from an 18-point second-period deficit.

James Worthy scored 18 points and Earvin "Magic" Johnson, playing in his first game after missing six contests with a knee injury, added 14. Sam Perkins and Rolando Blackman scored 18

points apiece for Dallas

Hawks 105, Cavaliers 104

Atlanta only led once in the second half but it came when Randy Wittman tipped in a missed shot with one second to play that sent Cleveland to its seventh consecutive setback. Dominique Wilkins led Atlanta with 36 points.

Pistons 117, Bulls 115

Isiah Thomas, held to six points in the opening half, made three key free throws in the final 1:22 as Detroit handed Chicago its 10th loss in the last 12 games. Detroit's Kelly Tripucka scored 28 points.

Nuggets 119, Trail Blazers 118

Bill Hanzlik grabbed an offensive rebound and then converted two free throws with one second to play. The Nuggets trailed by nine points with 3:46 remaining before Alex English, the game's high scorer with 42 points, led the Denver comeback. The Blazers' Kiki Vandeweghe scored 33 points against his former team.

Spurs 124, Supersonics 119

Artis Gilmore had a game-high 30 points, including five in overtime, and Mike Mitchell recorded his first triple double — 26 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Khateib leads Egypt to 2nd win

CAIRO (R) — Veteran striker Mahmoud Al Khateib, fast returning to his goal-scoring form, helped Egypt to a 2-1 win over Austria Vienna in a soccer friendly here Tuesday. The 32-year-old striker levelled scores eight minutes after Vienna went up 1-0 in the 20th minute through Dreits when he drove home a long ball from defender Mustapha Abu El Dahab. Khateib also provided the winner, putting Alaa Makhoub in the clear 13 minutes into the second half in a goalmouth melee, allowing the midfielder to stab the ball past goalkeeper Rush. Egypt, warming up for the African Nations' Cup finals here next month, beat Vienna 7-0 on Sunday.

Cuba will boycott Seoul-only Games

HAVANA (R) — President Fidel Castro Tuesday made clear for the first time that Cuba would not take part in the 1988 Olympics Games if they are held in South Korea alone. "If the talks between North and South Korea do not succeed in arranging a sharing of the Games it would be unthinkable for Cuba to take part," Castro said during a speech to a Communist Party conference. Castro, a keen sports fan, had previously hinted Cuba would boycott the Games though Tuesday's declaration was the first definite statement on his position.

Connors vows to put the 'animal' back in his game

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — Jimmy Connors said he realized he hadn't been at his best in the first set and vowed to change his style. "I came out of it when the first set was over and played a very, very good second set. But then in the third I wasn't down to business enough. I've been playing like a wimp for a while and now it's time to start playing like an animal again."

Tenth-seeded Jimmy Arias of the U.S. fell to countryman Marty Davis 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 and 11th-seeded Thierry Tulasne of France was beaten by Sweden's Mikael Panfors 2-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Thirteenth-seeded David Pate and fourth seed Kevin Curren of the U.S. also reached the third round. Pate eliminated Marko Ostojic of Yugoslavia 6-2, 6-3 and Curren defeated compatriot Mel Purcell 6-4, 6-7 (6-8), 6-1.

Curren had a close call against Purcell, ranked 244 places below him on the world rankings.

Bulgaria breaking its own rules to improve World Cup showing

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria have shed principles in a bid to succeed in this year's World Cup Finals in Mexico.

Six months after draconian measures were imposed on nine players for unsporting behaviour, two have been called back into the national side.

Goalkeeper Borislav Mikhailov, widely rated as one of the best in Europe, and striker Nasko Sirakov have both been recalled after being suspended last summer following a cup final brawl between their Spartak Levski side and the army team CSKA Sofia.

Mikhailov was banned for life but had his punishment suddenly renounced recently by the Bulgarian Football Association and immediately joined Bulgaria for their tour of Mexico.

Sirakov had his one-year suspension lifted and has also returned to the national team, though he did not go on the Mexican tour.

Meanwhile, four other players remain barred for life while three more must wait for their year-long bans to run their course.

Although the final Bulgarian squad will not be announced until May, manager Ivan Vutsov looks set to rely on tried and trusted veterans.

Only one newcomer made his mark on the Mexico tour, 20-year-old Lokomotiv Sofia defender Dimitar Vasev, and Vutsov remains realistic about his team's chances.

"We are not a team of stars, we rely more on team spirit," he said.

"We are good in defence, but lack bite in attack. But I still think we can make the final 16."

At 23, Mikhailov remains one of his key players. Capped 21 times, he conceded only three goals in the seven qualification games he played as the Bulgarians emerged winners of Group Four ahead of Yugoslavia, East Germany, Luxembourg and European Champions France.

Other key players in the side are likely to be skipper Georgi Dimitrov, and Sadkov and Andrei Zlatkov.

Dimitrov, 26, is a tough, aggressive defender voted Bulgaria's top player in 1985. He now plays for Sredec Sofia, previously the CSKA army team.

Sadkov, 24, is a tough-tackling midfielder while 33-year-old Zlatkov, who plays for French team

Strasbourg, remains first choice centre-forward despite being past his prime.

Bulgaria have never won a match in the World Cup Finals despite qualifying four times. Their biggest success was in 1974 when they managed two draws.

Their preparation this time promises little better. They lost 2-0 to Spain in Madrid and were spectacular in a series of games against local sides in the Canary Islands, although they beat the Mexican junior team 16-0 last Sunday.

Bulgaria open the competition when they take on holders Italy in the first Group A match on May 31.

Despite Vutsov's guarded optimism, others believe that the Bulgarians will create the first shock of the tournament.

"With Italy in their present form there is no reason why we should not beat the world champions," one sports commentator said here recently.

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Rogers

ACROSS	1 Get lost!	2 "In" or "out"	3 Salaries state	4 Renowned	5 Flowers	6 Bull	7 Sound of disapproval	8 Fr. director	9 Clair	10 Fr. painter	11 Contrast	12 After promise	13 Very loving	14 Working people	15 Fr. income	16 Mediterranean	17 passport	18 Flowers	19 Prayers	20 Decayed	21 Bullies	22 Pile	23 Elop	24 Experts	25 Pretentious	26 residence	27 Natalie or	28 Not	29 Vintage star	30 Erwin	31 Relatives	32 Flowering plant	33 More quickly	34 Ancient Irish soldiers	35 Public	36 official	37 Nine	38 More rapid	39 Woodstock	40 Animal hunt	41 Deceased	42 Sharp cheese	43 White poplar	44 Iron of	45 word	46 Boney sound?	47 Slip up	48 Drink of the gods	49 Modern officials	50 Not	51 Remnant	52 Resisting change	53 Handcuffs youth	54 More quickly	55 Ancient Irish soldiers	56 Public	57 official	58 Nine	59 More rapid	60 Woodstock	61 Animal hunt	62 Deceased	63 Sharp cheese	64 White poplar	65 Iron of	66 word	67 Boney sound?	68 Slip up	69 Drink of the gods	70 Modern officials	71 Not	72 Remnant	73 Resisting 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officials	659 Not	660 Remnant	661 Resisting change	662 Handcuffs youth	663 More quickly	664 Ancient Irish soldiers	665 Public	666 official	667 Nine	668 More rapid	669 Woodstock	670 Animal hunt	671 Deceased	672 Sharp cheese	673 White poplar	674 Iron of	675 word	676 Boney sound?	677 Slip up	678 Drink of the gods	679 Modern officials	680 Not	681 Remnant	682 Resisting change	683 Handcuffs youth	684 More quickly	685 Ancient Irish soldiers	686 Public	687 official	688 Nine	689 More rapid	690 Woodstock	691 Animal hunt	692 Deceased	693 Sharp cheese	694 White poplar	695 Iron of	696 word	697 Boney sound?	698 Slip up	699 Drink of the gods	700 Modern officials	701 Not	702 Remnant	703 Resisting change	704 Handcuffs youth	705 More quickly	706 Ancient Irish soldiers	707 Public	708 official	709 Nine	710 More rapid	711 Woodstock	712 Animal hunt	713 Deceased	714 Sharp cheese	715 White poplar	716 Iron of	717 word
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.3870/80	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.4390/4400	Canadian dollars
	2.4055/65	West German marks
	2.7160/70	Dutch guilders
	2.0358/68	Swiss francs
	49.18/23	Belgian francs
	7.3700/50	French francs
	1636/1637	Italian lire
	191.95/192.05	Japanese yen
	7.5520/70	Swedish crowns
	7.4675/4725	Norwegian crowns
	8.8625/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	338.00/338.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mixed with an easier bias in quiet trading as concern over crude oil prices continued.

At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was 7.2 down at 1,424.4, while the FT 30 was 1.4 down at 1,162.5, having reached an intra day high of 1,167.3.

Government bonds showed net gains of around 1/2 point. Oils fluctuated but closed lower on balance with B.P. 6p down at 550.

ICI ended 8p off at 626. Unilever lost 10p to 1,395 while Glaxo added 7p to 990. Distillers closed 15p higher at 578 on hopes of an increased offer from Argyll, dealers said. The former showed little movement following Argyll's issue of a writ against the company, and Guinness, the rival rival, Argyll at 448 and Guinness at 293 were 2p lower apiece.

B.L. lost 13p to 58 on profit-taking, dealers said. Banks were dull with Barclays down 5p at 447 while in lower insurance Guardian Royal added 5p to 763. Golds were easier.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 6, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An unusually good day and evening to get into whatever practical problems that you have and of which you want to get on a more secure structure and foundation.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contact early those persons who can assist you where your credit and career are concerned and gain their backing.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get right at those projects that will bring you progress at this time, and be more sure of yourself for best results.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Have talks with those in business so that you can make the future brighter by following their ideas.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If you listen more carefully to what an associate is saying, you can bring greater success for you both in the days ahead.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Use every opportunity to increase your efficiency and be far more productive, thereby adding appreciably to your income.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan your amusements far into the future with congeniality in the day. First study the cost well and then set up appointments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be more concerned with home affairs so that all is improved at your abode. A good evening to invite important guests into your home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You like to organize your life so that all runs smoothly and wisely so make any improvements needed to this plan.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Find better ways of gaining more assets and be more concerned with the details of any plans you make.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Doing whatever is needed to gain your desires is wise now. Contact good friends who are sensible and can be of help.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) It is important you concentrate on important business matters and forget the social side of life for a while. Be kind.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can easily gain intimate desires today so apply a little effort and all is well.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be a born organizer and can easily solve any problem by using simple logic. Early teach your progeny to study into the underlying motives of others and add philosophy and psychology courses at school for best results. One who could make quite a name for the self.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 7, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds you with much energy and ambition to get everything facing you done in fine fashion, so be up early and by noon you find you have accomplished much of importance.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Early get at whatever has long been on your mind and get it done, then get at long-time responsibilities.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try to improve your mode of operating, and get better results. Then use patience with one who is difficult to deal with.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Early try to please your mate, but later avoid hard work or running errands.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Look to a seasoned person in business who can help you to solve difficult problems in the morning.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get right at your routines early and fine results occur, but tonight avoid a possible argument at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Early get the appointments set up for amusements later on, but you may find communicating rather difficult in the evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Financial and property matters should work well for you in the morning, but be sure not to commit yourself heavily tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can handle all communications quickly and well today, so get busy early. Later you may not gain a personal wish.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The morning is fine for getting your practical affairs improved, but later a secret worry could deter your progress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can do whatever gains you your most cherished personal aims. Steer clear of one who could waste your time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Contact advisers who can help to make the future brighter for you. Later steer clear of one in power.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Listen carefully to what a long-time adviser has to suggest in order to gain your fondest aims.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she can easily understand what is expected from those in authority and will gladly carry through with orders. Give the finest education you can afford since coupled with the natural ability, this can make a most successful life.

Japanese cherish triple dose of good news

TOKYO (R) — Japan's economy and its beleaguered exporters received a triple dose of good news Wednesday as interest rates were cut, oil prices dropped and President Reagan vowed to fight protectionism in the United States.

Tokyo share prices responded by leaping to record levels in a burst of euphoric buying. "It's a buy, buy mood," said one broker, as the key market index soared 47.57 points to 13,185.66.

Investors are gambling that the combination of low interest rates and collapsing oil prices will provide a powerful spur to an economy that has recently been showing signs of weakness.

Government economists reckon that every \$5 drop in the price of a barrel of oil boosts Japan's economy by 1/2 per cent per year and cuts its import bill by \$6 to \$7 billion.

The economy should also receive a modest boost from Wednesday's news of a cut in interest rates by the country's largest bank, which will make it cheaper for Japanese companies to invest in plant and equipment.

Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank said it will reduce its short-term lending rate to five per cent from 5.5 per cent on Feb. 24. Other Japanese banks are expected to match the cut soon.

The Dai-ichi announcement came after Japan's central bank last week trimmed a 1/2 point from the recent rate it charges for loans made to commercial banks.

Japan's exporters will also benefit if Mr. Reagan succeeds in blocking the U.S. Congress from passing laws to shield American manufacturers from imports, economists said.

The exporters have been reeling from the recent strength of the yen against the dollar, which has forced them to raise prices in the United States and risk losing business there.

But even here there are signs of relief. The dollar rose against the yen Wednesday, to 192.65 yen from 191.35 yen, amid signs the Japanese government believes it has fallen far enough.

Angola stands to lose \$600m in oil revenue

LUANDA (R) — President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos said Tuesday Angola would lose \$600 million this year because of depressed international oil prices. This represents a third of Angola's revenue from oil and will curtail economic development, he said. "We need to use in the best possible way the little money we still earn," President Dos Santos said, adding that rigorous measures to substitute imports by local products were needed. Angola earns nearly \$2 billion annually from oil produced by Cabinda Gulf Oil, a subsidiary of the U.S. company Chevron.

'World enters the third oil crisis'

TOKYO (R) — Oil dealers said Wednesday the world had entered its third oil crisis and trading came to a halt in Tokyo as buyers, believing prices would continue to fall, withdrew from the market.

Traders said after an overnight fall of \$1 a barrel that buyers saw no reason to move when further declines were expected. Sellers are watching profits evaporate and have given up trying to tempt buyers.

"We have entered the third oil crisis," a trader said. "No one knows where the bottom will be."

Crude oil prices fell through the \$20 barrier last month because the world's major producers began increasing production and cutting prices to make sure they could keep their share of the market.

A price war began when the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) vowed it would not allow non-OPEC producers like Britain and Mexico to steal its share.

"The price of Dubai crude oil is \$14 a barrel now and it's been dropping \$1 daily so where will that leave us in two weeks time?" an international refining company trader asked.

"You ask buyers for a figure they are willing to pay and when you offer that they come back for a lower one," said a Japanese trader.

Unlike the first two world oil shocks in the 1970s, which were set off by rocketing prices, the latest crisis is due to a market awash with oil at ever-lower prices.

This week's OPEC-meeting in Vienna ended with an agreement to raise rather than cut members' production. Traders said the move would lead to more competition and lower prices.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer, has taken a back seat during the crisis. Oil analysts say a political initiative from someone as powerful as its Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani is needed to check the oil flow and save prices.

"The economics behind the drop are simple enough but it will take a political move now from either Sheikh Yamani or (British) Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to stop this spiral," an international refining official said.

Britain denies secret talks with OPEC, Norway.

A spokesman for the department of energy in London Wednesday denied that Britain would be attending talks in Norway this weekend with OPEC and Norwegian oil ministers.

Western diplomats in Oslo had said Britain's junior energy minister, Mr. Alick Buchanan-Smith, would fly to Norway Thursday for an annual meeting of top oil company officials, bankers and politicians.

"Buchanan-Smith will not attend the meeting," the spokesman said. He added that Britain would not be sending a representative.

The diplomatic sources in Oslo had said that British and Norwegian oil ministers would meet one or more ministers from OPEC this weekend for secret talks at a remote hotel.

They said the ministers were likely to discuss falling oil prices which have seriously hit the earnings of oil exporters.

The energy department said Mr. Buchanan-Smith, who attended the routine annual meeting for the past two years, was occupied with drawing up plans for the privatisation of state-owned British Gas and would be unable to go.

Britain, a major exporter of crude, has persistently rejected demands from OPEC that it cut its North Sea production to support falling oil prices.

London says only market forces can dictate its oil export policies.

The diplomats said Norwegian

Oil and Energy Minister Kaare Kristiansen would attend the meeting at Sandnessjøen, but could not confirm reports that the energy ministers of Venezuela and Mexico, Mr. Arturo Grisanti and Mr. Francisco Labastida, would attend.

The diplomats, who asked not to be identified, did not know which OPEC ministers would attend, but confirmed they would be present at the hotel.

No details are revealed about the annual meeting and visitors are kept away from the hotel where it takes place. Sheikh Yamani is among those who have attended in the past.

China supports OPEC, halts oil export increases

Meanwhile, China sprang to the defence of the hard-pressed OPEC Wednesday, offering to freeze their 1986 oil exports at last year's levels to help stabilise world prices.

The official New China News Agency quoted Mr. Zheng Dunxun, president of the China National Chemicals Import and Export Corporation, as saying the move was designed to encourage a dialogue between OPEC and non-OPEC countries.

China is not a member of OPEC, but in recent years oil has

emerged as its largest export earner.

Mr. Zheng expressed concern about the recent drastic drop in oil prices and said: "China appreciates the efforts made by OPEC to stabilise the oil price through negotiations with other oil producers."

China's exports of crude oil rose to 21.35 million tonnes in the first nine months of 1985, up from 15.4 million tonnes in the same period of 1984.

Western diplomats said China had a keen interest in helping to shore up the sagging price of oil, especially following its record trade deficit last year of \$7.6 billion, sharply up from a deficit of \$1.1 billion in 1984.

"This recent fall in oil prices is going to be a bitter blow to the Chinese and is sure to have a very serious effect on their balance of payments situation," one diplomat said.

But another diplomat said the announcement of a freeze in oil export levels probably suited them from a domestic point of view anyway.

"They increased their oil exports by a huge proportion in 1984 and last year, and there was a question about how long they could keep it up. They need oil for domestic consumption as well," he said.

Reagan proposes '87 budget of \$994 billion

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Wednesday asked Congress to approve government spending of \$994 billion in the 1987 financial year, which begins on Oct. 1, leaving a budget deficit of \$143.6 billion.

Mr. Reagan's budget calls for \$38.4 billion in spending cuts and budget savings that would produce a deficit which meets the target set in the Gramm-Rudman balanced-budget law enacted late last year.

Mr. Reagan said the 1987 deficit would total \$182 billion if present spending and tax policies were left unchanged.

The Gramm-Rudman law, which is being challenged in the courts, sets annual, declining deficit targets, with the object of eliminating the deficit by 1991. If the president and Congress cannot agree on a budget meeting the targets, the law requires automatic spending cuts in most federal programmes.

The law has already resulted in \$11.7 billion in automatic cuts in the current financial year.

The Gramm-Rudman deficit target for the 1987 financial year is \$144 billion.

Mr. Reagan, in his budget message to Congress flatly ruled out a tax increase and said his budget would "lead to a balanced budget at the end of five years ... without resorting to desperate measures."

He proposed spending outlays for the defence department of \$274.3 billion and spending authority of \$311.6 billion. The authorisation request is larger because it includes funds for long-term weapons contracts to be paid in future years.

The requested 1987 budget authority for the Pentagon represents an 8.2 per cent increase over the figure for the current financial year, \$278.4 billion.

Mr. Reagan said: "Eliminating the deficit is possible without raising taxes, without sacrificing our defence preparedness and without cutting into legitimate programmes for the poor and elderly."

Those claims are already being widely challenged in Congress, which must approve any budget plan before it becomes law. Key legislators of both Reagan's Republican Party and the opposition Democrats have said higher taxes and lower military spending will almost certainly be required to meet the Gramm-Rudman deficit target for 1987.

Mr. Reagan called the deficit "a major threat looming on the horizon" and said that if it was not brought under control, U.S. economic expansion could be jeopardised.

He said the measures proposed in his budget set the stage for economic growth of four per cent in calendar years 1986 and 1987. That compares to growth of 2.5 per cent in 1985, when the administration also forecast four per cent growth.

Most private economists are forecasting growth of about three per cent this year, although recent declines in oil prices are causing some analysts to raise their expectations.

Mr. Reagan's budget assumes that inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, will average 3.7 per cent this calendar year and 4.1 per cent in 1987.

It predicts an unemployment rate of 6.7 per cent by the fourth quarter of this year, compared to 6.2 per cent in December, 1985.

The rate is forecast to fall to 6.5 per cent by the end of 1987.

The budget assumes that interest rates, as measured by 91-day U.S. treasury bills, will average 7.3 per cent in calendar 1986, slipping to 6.5 per cent the following year.

The economic forecasts for 1987 assume that growth of the U.S. money supply will decline gradually following its acceleration in 1985, but should provide enough liquidity to sustain a healthy economic expansion.

The forecasts also assume implementation of the large spending cuts and budget savings proposed by Mr. Reagan in his budget.

The administration said rapid money supply growth last year and the recent decline of the dollar against major foreign currencies were the chief reasons for the forecast that inflation will rise slightly next year.

It said slower money supply growth this year and next should help curb and then reverse the rise

in inflation.

The budget said that with spending cuts and savings, interest on the public debt should fall in the 1987 financial year, to a total of \$206.86 billion.

The administration said it was initiating several measures to eliminate fraud, waste and abuse, reap savings by reforming the civil service retirement system, and end the build-up of the strategic petroleum reserve once it reaches \$500 million barrels in 1986.

It also called for the elimination or sharp reduction of several direct loan or loan guarantee programmes, and proposed the sale of several major government assets.

Mr. Reagan urged the sale of five agencies which sell six per cent of all electrical power produced in the United States. The initiative is expected to yield \$12.7 billion in savings through 1991.

He also proposed selling the naval petroleum reserves to save \$1 billion in fiscal 1987 and nearly \$2 billion the following year.

Under a planned amendment to the labour laws, workers laid off because of a strike in their industry in which they are not directly involved will no longer be able to claim state unemployment benefits, if they stand to benefit should their union colleagues win their demands.

Employers and the three centre-right parties who hold a majority of seats in the Bundestag

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Employers and the three centre-right parties who hold a majority of seats in the Bundestag

W.Germans stage protests, strikes

BONN (R) — West German trade unionists staged protest rallies and work stoppages Wednesday as parliament met in special session to debate a controversial changes to labour laws which they say will restrict their rights.

In the Stuttgart region, over 50,000 workers stopped work in protest, many holding meetings on the factory floor, while others followed radio and television broadcasts of the parliamentary debate.

Thousands attended rallies throughout the industrial Ruhr dis-

trict, while in Munich some store and bank employees broke off work to discuss the new legislation with customers.

Under a planned amendment to the labour laws, workers laid off because of a strike in their industry in which they are not directly involved will no longer be able to claim state unemployment benefits, if they stand to benefit should their union colleagues win their demands.

Employers and the three centre-right parties who hold a majority of seats in the Bundestag

(Lower House) are in favour of the new measure, which received its first reading Wednesday and is expected to become law in March.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition believes the law at present unintentionally puts the state on the side of strikers in industrial disputes.

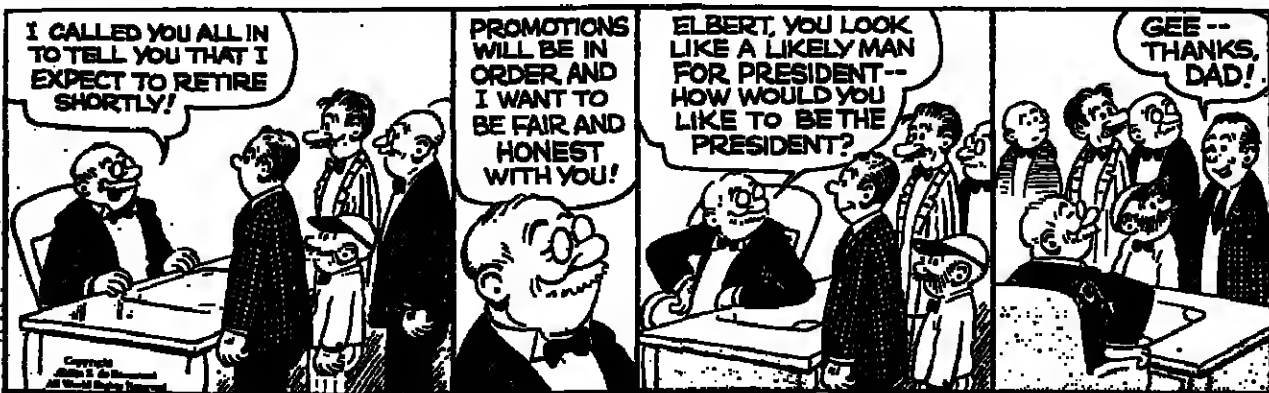
Labour Minister Norbert Blum, introducing the bill, told the Bundestag the new measure was necessary to preserve the neutrality of the state.

"Proxy strikes should not be subsidised out of public coffers," he said.

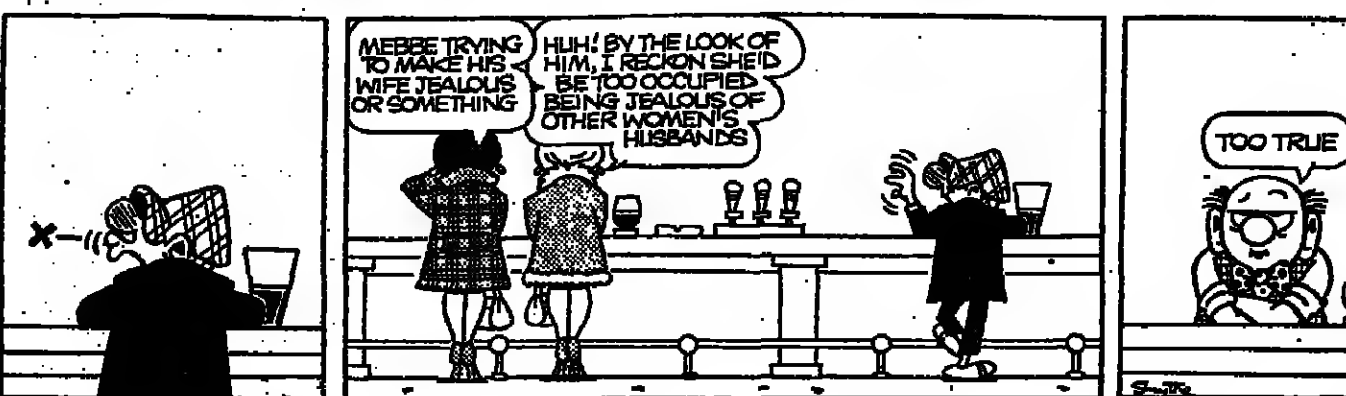
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



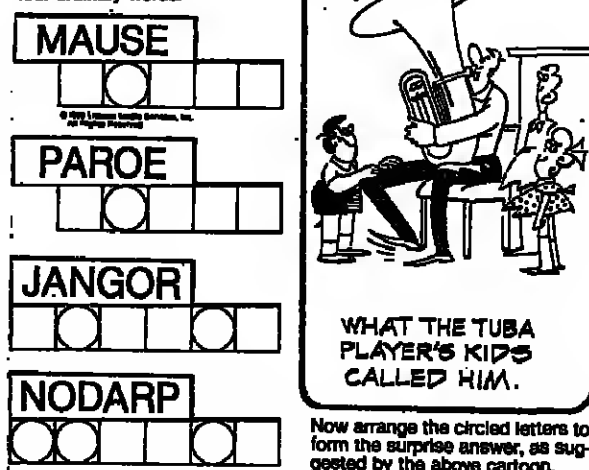
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"If people really cared, there'd be enough tears shed to turn all those deserts into farmland."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "O O O O - O O O O" (Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumbles: VOUGH FAUNA CONVEX APPEAR
Answer: A prejudiced guy is down on anything he's not this-UP ON

Violence flares as Marcos campaign fizzles out in rain

MANILA (R) — A bomb blast injured two people in a radio station and scattered violence broke out in Manila Wednesday night as President Ferdinand Marcos' final push for re-election on Friday fizzled out in the rain.

A military spokesman said the bomb exploded in a commercial radio in Pagadian, Mindanao, which had refused to accept campaign advertisements for Mr. Marcos or his rival, Corason Aquino.

In Manila's Makati financial district, eyewitnesses said Mrs. Aquino supporters stoned cars and buses carrying Mr. Marcos supporters to his rally in the city centre. There were no reports of casualties.

About 100,000 people turned up to hear Mr. Marcos at Manila's Luneta Park where Mrs. Aquino ended her campaign in triumph barely 24 hours earlier by attracting what her aides called a crowd of one million.

The 68-year-old president was still speaking as the crowd started to drift away in the rain. Some of his supporters flashed the opposition's finger-and-thumb L-sign "Laban" (fight) as they were driven past Aquino followers in buses hired by the ruling New Society Movement (KBL).

A bomb hidden in a clock destroyed the transmitter of the radio station owned by an opposition fringe candidate for the presidency.

Brig.-Gen. Jose Magno said two staff were injured in the blast at the station in Pagadian, capital of Mindanao Island's Zamboanga Del Sur Province, about 800 kilometres south of Manila.

The station is owned by Ruben Canoy, a former opposition member of parliament who is running against President Ferdinand Marcos in the election. Gen. Magno said a boy had delivered the clock to the radio station for repair by a technician and it had been left near the transmitter.

In another incident in Mindanao, a stronghold for Communist and Muslim rebels who have been fighting Mr. Marcos for most of his 20 years in power, troops shot dead one of 21 men who tried to blow up an army camp in Basilan. The military said one

bomb exploded outside the camp and a second was found inside.

Government television reported that one bus driver was wounded by a bullet and another was hit in the leg by an airgun pellet as shots were fired in Manila just before the Marcos rally. It blamed the shootings on people wearing yellow, Mrs. Aquino's colour.

In Concepcion, in Mrs. Aquino's home province of Tarlac, a U.S. television camera crew said they were punched by soldiers and had their cameras smashed when they tried to film military men kicking a car carrying Mrs. Aquino's sister-in-law.

In Manila, offices closed early and government employees were put into buses to attend the Luneta rally. Some people in the crowd said they were paid 100 pesos (\$5) to see the 68-year-old president's last appearance before campaigning officially ends at midnight.

The official Philippine News Agency said more than one million people attended the rally.

Sin predicts election fraud

Cardinal Jaime Sin, senior prelate of the staunchly Roman Catholic Philippines and a persistent Marcos critic, said he had evidence of plans to rig the election.

He said the battle between Mr. Marcos and Mrs. Aquino was the most crucial in the country's history but there would be dire consequences if it were marred by fraud and violence.

He said a friend from the provinces had told him of a town leader "boasting" if I wake up feeling good on election day I will give Cory (Aquino) five votes in every precinct. If I don't feel good, she will get zero."

"Another told me how armed men knocked on his door in the middle of the night only to tell him not to commit the mistake of supporting the opposition — or else," Sin said.

The cardinal said he had received other reports of pre-election irregularities, almost all by "the people in power."

He said the opposition might try to "make this mistake but it is impossible for them because they have no powers, no money, no facilities... all this money and all these facilities are in the hands of the people in power."

Observers to expose cheating

Meanwhile, poll observers from 19 countries said Wednesday they had the means to detect widespread fraud in Friday's Philippine elections and pledged to expose cheating without hesitation.

As the last hours for campaigning in the bitterly fought election ticked away, the 44-strong observer delegation warned supporters of Mr. Marcos and Mrs. Aquino they would brook no nonsense in scrutiny of polling in key areas.

"Malpractice can be detected, especially that which is attempted or perpetrated on a wholesale basis," it said in a press conference statement. "We hope that this will not occur but we will not hesitate to expose it if it does."

The delegation, sponsored by the U.S. Republican and Democratic parties, is one of two invited by Marcos to monitor balloting. The other, a 20-strong official U.S. group led by Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was due in Manila Wednesday night.

Sen. Lugar has already said he doubts whether the elections can be free and fair. Other U.S. officials have voiced fears that the 68-year-old president, battling for a new six-year term after 20 years in power, will win by fraud.

The international team includes 27 Americans. It is led jointly by former Colombian President Misael Pastrana and John Hume, a member of the British and European Parliaments and leader of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party.

It will send nine teams across the country to watch polling in areas listed as potential hotspots by the military and the government.

S. Africa said to have detained 11,000 in 1985

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police detained 11,000 people last year and 13 died in police custody as the authorities tackled the country's worst ever unrest, a civil rights group said Wednesday.

The Detainees' Parents Support Committee said 7,361 of those detained were held under emergency powers imposed last July after a wave of protests.

It said another 3,637 were held under the internal security act, including 406 under a section allowing indefinite detention and interrogation in solitary confinement.

Another 25,000 people were arrested on charges relating to political unrest. It added. The group listed 13 people who it said died in custody.

Almost 1,100 people have been killed in violence that began two years ago and is blamed on black grievances over the white-dominated government's policy of racial segregation.

The main targets of the police clampdown were community and political workers, scholars, students and teachers who accounted for more than half the detainees, and especially leaders of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front, the committee said.

It added that an extraordinary range of gatherings and activities was banned in South Africa last year under emergency powers or public safety laws.

These included a candlelit carol service in a Cape Town sports stadium, a fund run in Johannesburg, pop concerts and student meetings.

Pretoria re-imposed a ban on outdoor political gatherings and many indoor meetings were prohibited by local magistrates.

One hundred and seventy-two people were "banned," a unique punishment under which they cannot be quoted in news media. The best-known banned person is black nationalist leader Winnie Mandela.

Pope prays at site where apostle died

MADRAS, India (R) — Tens of thousands of people lined a small hill in this tropical city Wednesday to watch Pope John Paul pray at the site where legend says a spear killed St. Thomas the apostle, the founder of Christianity in India.

Shortly after arriving from Calcutta to the most rapturous welcome yet of his 10-day Indian tour the Pope visited St. Thomas' Mount near Madras Airport.

The small 16th Century Nossa Senhora Da Expectacao Church built by the Portuguese marks the spot where St. Thomas was said to have been martyred in 78 A.D.

Thomas is the follower of Christ from whom the term doubting Thomas derives because he initially refused to believe that Christ had been resurrected when he appeared to his apostles three days after his crucifixion.

Inside the small yellow church the Pope, his face reddened by the scorching sun, prayed before a relic of the saint and before a stone cross which is said to have sweated blood in the 16th and 17th centuries.

A band of small children played Indian music for the Pontiff as he drew up in a bulletproof "pop-emobile" at the top of the hill, the major pilgrimage site for Indian Catholics.

The Pope drew sustained cheering and applause when he spoke briefly to the densely packed crowd, which hugged all sides of the hill.

He greeted them in the Tamil language of this south eastern state of Tamil Nadu where six per cent of the 50 million people are Catholic, about three times the Indian average.

Crowds stood up to 10 deep in places along the 10 kilometre route of the Pope's motorcade into the city. The rousing welcome was in marked contrast to the subdued reception at the start of his tour on Saturday in New Delhi.

Up to one million people were expected to throng the beach at Madras later in the day to hear the Pope say mass.

The crowds, which waited in boiling sunshine for three hours, were in festive mood.

Haitians urged to stage eight-day protest strike

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haitians are being urged to stage an eight-day general strike next week as a blow against the beleaguered government of President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Political tracts began appearing Tuesday calling for the strike to begin next Ash Wednesday — the first day of lent and a major feast in this heavily Catholic country — and to continue through Feb. 20.

Most shops and businesses remained closed Tuesday, despite government calls for a resumption of normality, though banks and government offices were open and brightly painted buses crammed the dusty streets as usual.

Schools, closed since Jan. 7 by anti-Duvalier protests, remained shut.

"Business has been nil for the past two weeks. Everybody is waiting," a boutique owner in the Petion-Ville residential neighbourhood said.

Opposition leaders have been predicting the imminent fall of Duvalier, who took over as president-for-life from his father in 1971. The family has ruled Haiti with an iron hand for 28 years.

Foreign observers expect to get some measure of the depth of the discontent with Duvalier during carnival, the three-day celebration before Ash Wednesday.

"Haiti is a powderkeg at the moment. The spark could be the carnival," one Western diplomat said.

This capital of one million remained under a tightly enforced state of siege imposed by the 34-year-old leader last Friday. Movement of foreign journalists has been restricted.

Though no death toll has been released, doctors and other sources have said at least 70 people have been killed in the last week.

On Tuesday U.S. officials in Washington said two small planes evacuated 15 Americans from the northern city of Cap-Haitien, a main centre of anti-government agitation, to the capital.

They said Duvalier's government had agreed to the evacuation from Cap-Haitien, where the airport is officially closed, after Washington requested special permission for charter flights to bring out Americans wishing to leave the country.

Soviets reportedly deploy cruise missiles near Japan

TOKYO (R) — The Soviet Union has deployed ground launched cruise missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads on a disputed southern Kurile Island, a Japanese newspaper said Wednesday.

Quoting international security sources the paper Sankei Shimbun said the deployment of SSC-1 cruise missiles, designed for attacks on warships and ground facilities, began last October on Etorofu Island, one of the four islands the Soviet Union seized after World War II.

The deployment could be part of a Soviet strategy to control the Sea of Okhotsk and shut out U.S. warships in an emergency, it said.

The Japanese Defence Agency said it was unable to confirm the deployment of the missiles on Etorofu.

Castro blames U.S. for most of world's problems

HAVANA (R) — Cuban leader Fidel Castro has called for a more diversified and efficient economy and blamed the United States for most of the world's main problems, including the Third World debt crisis.

In a keynote speech Tuesday at the start of a four-day congress of the ruling Communist Party, Mr. Castro listed Cuba's advances in the production of everything from sugar and steel to ice cream and yoghurt since the last party congress in December 1980.

"But we still have much to learn as far as efficiency is concerned," he added.

Party officials described his six-hour address to the 1,790 delegates as "very critical" and predicted that economic themes would dominate the gathering.

Several foreign representatives are due to address the congress, which is held once every five years, before it goes on to discuss guidelines for government action up to 1990, the officials said.

Among those due to speak are Soviet politburo member Yegor Ligachov, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Guinea-Bissau President Joao Bernardo Vieira.

Mr. Castro gave examples of low yields and poor planning in agriculture, transport and other sectors of the economy.

He called for an acceleration of the current drive to diversify Cuba's economy away from its continuing dependence on sugar, through the development of other foreign exchange earners such as nickel, citrus, seafood and tourism.

The head of state and first secretary of Cuba's Communist Party warned the country's 10 million population that their austere lifestyle would not change overnight since the government would continue to give economic investment a higher priority than consumer spending.

Mr. Castro went on to report on other aspects of Cuban life, including the small but growing problems of crime and juvenile delinquency, before ending with a review of international affairs.

He launched a bitter attack on the United States, which he blamed for most of the world's main problems, such as the arms race, the global economic crisis and the Third World debt crisis.

Mr. Castro welcomed what he called "the tentative signs of a return to détente" between Washington and Moscow, following their resumption of strategic arms limitation talks last November.

He said that any change of attitude by the Reagan administration on global issues would not necessarily be accompanied by a shift on regional conflicts such as Central America and southern Africa.

Mr. Castro repeated Cuba's established position on most world issues but offered a special olive branch to the newly-elected government in Guatemala, which faces continuing insurgency by leftist guerrillas.

He welcomed the coming to power of President Vinicio Cerezo and remarked that Christian Democrat governments in Latin America were not necessarily as negative in outlook as their European counterparts.

Mr. Castro also praised Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for mastering a difficult situation following the death of his mother and predecessor Indira Gandhi in October 1984.

He reiterated his call for non-payment of Latin America's \$368 million foreign debt, which he said was becoming "more unpayable by the day."

Despite his fierce attack on the United States, Mr. Castro expressed the desire for a political settlement with Washington and the establishment of diplomatic relations on the basis of "equality, reciprocity and the fullest mutual respect."

French right scraps joint rally after unity collapse

PARIS (R) — French right-wing opposition leaders have scrapped plans for a joint rally after maverick politician Raymond Barre rejected pleas from his allies to attend.

Former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing said he had dropped his idea of the rally because Mr. Barre had refused to take part, citing fundamental differences.

"Top bad it's a pity. I call off this meeting," Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said in a statement. "I will continue tirelessly to work for unity, for without unity France will be ungovernable and it is the French people who will pay for the damage."

The rally was to have been the first attended by Mr. Barre, Neo-Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, Giscard d'Estaing and other opposition figures since last June and its cancellation frustrates efforts to hide rising tension in opposition ranks.

In a letter to Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, Mr. Barre said: "Most leaders of the opposition parties are ready to govern with Mr. Mitterrand in the event of a victory in the legislative elections. For my

part, however, I believe such cohabitation will be a trap."

Opinion polls show the two main right-wing parties, Mr. Chirac's RPR and Mr. Giscard d'Estaing's UDF, are expected to win parliamentary elections on March 16 but political analysts say infighting is cutting their expected margin of victory.

Mr. Barre, a former prime minister and France's most popular politician, has been at odds with colleagues on whether a future right-wing government can rule with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, whose mandate runs until 1988.

Mr. Barre says Mr. Mitterrand must step down if the right wins and on Monday reaffirmed that he would oppose a vote of confidence in any government formed without a new president.

Mr. Chirac, who supports the idea of "cohabitation" between a right-wing parliamentary majority and a Socialist president, had said he would attend the joint rally proposed by Mr. Giscard d'Estaing and considered by political analysts as an important pre-election gesture.

GOVERN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OWAIN SELLERS
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ONE BID TOO MANY

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ A J
♥ 8 6 3
♦ A K 2
♣ A J 10 6 4

WEST
♠ 6 4 3
♥ A Q 10 9 5 2
♦ 10 8 3
♣ Q

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 9 7 5
♥ Q
♦ Q
♣ K 9 8 7 6 3 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 2 ♠ 4 ♠
4 ♠ 5 ♥ 7 ♠ 4 ♠
7 ♠ Pass Pass Double
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 4
There is such a thing as bidding too much. Even experts are prone to be too talkative. As an example, this hand is from the final rounds of the Dutch team championship.

No one knows how to bid freak hands — if someone tells you otherwise, be skeptical. Many experts would pass with the South cards and try to get in a two-suited bid later in the auction should the opponents open the bidding. Be that as it may, no one can blame North for liking his hand once his partner

opened his long suit. He cue-bid the enemy suit after West's overall, and East took advantage at his turn to make a lead-directing jump to four clubs.

South competed to the four-level in an effort to complete the description of his hand and North took a shot at a grand slam in clubs. All would have been well had East chosen to take a sacrifice bid of seven hearts, for when the opponents now bid seven spades, West should have had no difficulty in finding the club lead to defeat the grand slam. Unfortunately for West, East tried to offer his partner a choice of sacrifices by bidding seven diamonds. When the opponents went on to seven spades, East doubled.

Think of West's predicament. He was pretty sure that his side could cash a fast trick, either with an ace or via a ruff. But in which suit did his partner have the trick? Had East not bid seven diamonds, there would have been no problem. But now West agonized over which minor suit to lead.

When you make life difficult for partner, odds are that he will go wrong. West decided that his partner was showing the ace of diamonds, led a diamond and that was that. Declarer won the king in dummy, drew trumps in three rounds and claimed his grand slam.

COLUMNS 7&8

1 quintuplet dies on day of birth

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Quintuplets weighing less than three pounds (1.36 kilograms) each were born to a Philadelphia mother, but one of the five — a boy — died several hours later. Officials at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital said the two surviving boys and two girls were in serious but stable condition. The mother, Laurie Muldoon, was in good condition, said hospital Spokeswoman Rosamund Ginsburg, who declined to say whether the woman had been taking fertility drugs.

Michelangelo's techniques uncovered

VATICAN CITY (R) — Painstaking restoration of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel has uncovered new details of his artistic techniques and revealed that he corrected at least five mistakes, experts have said. The renaissance master made the mistakes in creation scenes on the chapel's huge rectangular roof panels, the experts told a news conference here. Fabrizio Mancinelli, director of the cleaning project, which is financed by a Japanese television network, said Michelangelo had used two different techniques for correcting mistakes he made on the figures of Joel, Zachariah, Noah and two male nudes. Contrary to tradition that the chapel was all his own work, Michelangelo almost certainly brought painters from Florence to help prepare the plaster and stucco.

Briton continues round-the world run

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A Briton carrying a toy panda left San Francisco on the penultimate leg of a 26,500 kilometre round-the-world run to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund. Henry Weston, a security consultant, began his 28-country marathon in London on April 1, 1984. He says he averages about 50 kilometres a day and stops at overnight lodgings provided by various commercial sponsors. As he set out to cross the San Francisco Bay Bridge Tuesday morning, he carried a toy panda to publicise his fund-raising effort. Weston said he hoped to reach the east coast in 100 days, then fly to Ireland for the last leg of his trip. "The worst part has been the boredom," he said.

China executes criminals

PEKING (R) — Chinese provincial newspapers are reporting a wave of executions around the country as part of what Western diplomats said was a periodic crackdown on crime. The official daily from the central city of Zhengzhou said nine criminals were executed there between Jan. 29 and 31 for crimes including murder, rape and robbery. Other papers reported eight people executed in the southern city of Canton and two in the north east city of Harbin on Jan. 31 after they were found guilty of similar crimes. In China executions are usually carried out by a shot in the back of the neck. According to some unofficial estimates, more than 10,000 people were executed around China during an anti-crime campaign in 1983.

66-year-old ballerina to reappear

LONDON (R) — Dame Margot Fonteyn, the British prima ballerina, will leave retirement at the age of 66 to appear again in a ballet, a spokeswoman for the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet Company said in London. She said Fonteyn, who now lives in Panama, would play the Queen Mother in Sleeping Beauty. "We are absolutely delighted," she said, but added that it was a mime role rather than a dancing role. Fonteyn will return to the stage for two nights in Miami on Feb. 18 and 19 during Sadler's Wells' tour of North and South America.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Peter E. Peterson

ACROSS

- 1 "Call the..."
- 2 "I'm a..."
- 3 "I'm a..."
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1. In the fall, heavy snow and the smell of smoke from wood-burning stoves heralds the start of black days ahead.

2. High court charged widely with grand larceny in